

BAY AREA REPORTER

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More \$\$ on AIDS

Democrats' Platform Strong on Gay Issues

by Wayne Friday

It's now official. The Democratic Party will come to the convention in San Francisco next month with the strongest platform on Gay rights ever. Events moved quickly last week as the platform committee met in Washington. On Saturday the committee unanimously voted a platform containing a call for more money for AIDS research and patient care, support for the national Gay rights bill, and opposition to discrimination against Lesbians and Gays in the military, in immigration, and in Legal Services funding. The party's new platform also contains a condemnation of anti-Gay violence.



Walter Mondale: Thumbs-up to Gay rights plank. (Photo: Rink)

Gay platform members were ecstatic. "We got it all," San Francisco's Bill Kraus said. "It's a real breakthrough." The victory for a strong Gay rights plank came after months of national hearings, more than a year of lobbying the Mondale and other presidential campaigns, and a series of statements by Mondale, Hart, Jackson, and other earlier candidates in favor of Gay rights.

Still, as recently as last week, there was fear that the Democrats would retreat from their 1980 statement against anti-Gay discrimination. Instead, the 1984 plank is far stronger than the 1980 one. In addition to all the specific pledges, the platform for the first time uses the words "Lesbian and Gay." Previous language has referred only to "sexual orientation."

"It was the last step out of the closet for Democrats," said one local political observer. The Mondale staff, who controlled the platform committee because of their delegate lead, prepared the initial Gay rights draft presented last week, with the full support of the Hart and Jackson campaigns.

The Mondale draft "exceeded" (Continued on next page)

Third World Gays Meet to 'Reclaim' Identities

Three-Day Conference Draws More than 350 Participants

by Dion B. Sanders

Exactly 15 years ago today, on Sunday, June 28, 1969, police launched a raid on the Stonewall Inn, a Gay bar on Christopher Street in New York's Greenwich Village.

In the ensuing 15 years, the riot has been commemorated as the spark that gave birth to the Gay Freedom movement, with the last Sunday in June each year marked with parades, rallies and parties by Gay men and Lesbian women all over America.

But there is one fact about the Stonewall Rebellion that has been ignored over the years.

The Stonewall Inn catered to a predominantly Gay Latino clientele, with a substantial Black Gay presence as well.

So on that fateful night in 1969, it was Black and Puerto Rican drag queens who fought back the cops. The Gay Freedom movement — and the Gay community as it exists today —

(Continued on page 13)

1984 FREEDOM DAY



Free to Be... You and Me. That's what it's all about, especially on Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day. Whether you're straight, like the couple at left, or Gay, like the guys at right — a kiss is a kiss. Five pages of coverage begin on page 14. (Photo: Rink)

Fears of Violence, Political Pressure May Cancel Falwell's 'Family Forum'

With Just Two Weeks to Go, Speakers Missing; Falwell's People 'Concerned About Security'

by Allen White

Jerry Falwell's plans for a "Family Conference" here are unraveling as organized opposition — some of it from Democratic politicians — is growing. Local officials close to the planning of the Falwell event, set to kick-off two weeks from today, are saying it now appears the conference may be canceled. The two major guest speakers, both members of the Reagan Administration, have canceled. They are Dr. Everett Koop, Surgeon General and well-known anti-abortion activist, and William Bennett, chairman of the National Endowment of the Humanities.

Their cancellations have left only conference organizers Falwell, who heads the Moral Majority, and anti-ERA crusader Phyllis Schlafly as keynote speakers for the event. But in Lynchburg, Virginia, Falwell spokesman Dwayne Ward said plans for the conference are still on.

Three sources close to the City's planning around the conference, two of them law enforcement officials and one of

them a member of the clergy, told the Bay Area Reporter this week that they now doubt the conference will take place. The chief factor blocking the plans, they say, is growing opposition from conservative southern Democrats. The Democrats, say the sources, are concerned that Falwell's forum — and the demonstrations planned to coincide with it — will disrupt the opening of the convention.

With Falwell comes the serious concern of violence just days before the beginning of the Democratic Convention. There are now three days of rallies, protests, and church services directed at Jerry Falwell and what he believes. Though every event is being announced as nonviolent, law enforcement officials fear that a spark of violence could erupt into a riot.

Jerry Falwell also knows that there could be violence. Many in San Francisco believe a confrontation would play directly into Falwell's hands. Falwell press aide Ward told the Bay Area Reporter that their concern was

(Continued on next page)

Full Coverage of The Queen's Visit

Her Royal Highness of High Camp, Charles Pierce, is coming to town — to crown the top of Nob Hill. Charles, the reigning Queen of Drag and all its colonies, has spent 30 years moving up that hill from the Tenderloin. Read all about it in Arts & Entertainment.

And get this! The National Examiner — one of those scurrilous grocery-store check-out scandal sheets — ran a contest recently for a Joan Collins (Dynasty) look-alike. Among the three finalists was "Charlene Pierce" of L.A. The editors and readers were surprised when they found out their winner was no lady. But we weren't. Congrats, Charles. After 30 years, you still gotta great set of gams!



Jerry Falwell

Democrats' Platform

(Continued from page 1)

ed our expectations," Kraus said. "They gave us just about everything we asked for right away, except for using the words 'Lesbian and Gay.' After what some committee members described as a "spirited" discussion, between Gay platform members and the Mondale staff, a new section was unanimously adopted deploring acts of violence directed at various minorities, including "Lesbians and Gay men."

While some political observers traded speculation that the Democrats accepted such strong Gay rights language merely because their convention was coming to San Francisco, others saw it more as a result of heavy lobbying and the years of participation by Gays in politics in cities around the country.

"Gay people have produced for Democratic candidates in so many places that we've won a lot of friends in this party," one local Gay activist said. "We've earned this recognition."

Another key factor was strong support from National Organization for Women members active in the Mondale campaign

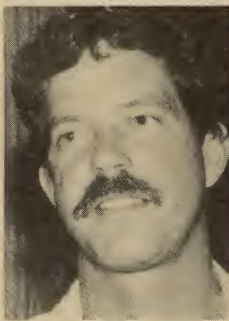


Geraldine Ferraro (Photo: Rink)

and from many prominent liberal Democratic officeholders. Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) and Contra Costa Supervisor Sunne McPeak played particularly critical roles, according to reports from Washington. Most observers believe the 1984 platform represents the last time Gays will have to struggle to make sure they're included in the party.

"The door is open," Kraus said. "From now on it's a process of gaining wider acceptance for what the party has already done. I don't think the issue of whether or not the national party will support Gay rights will ever be in doubt again."

As a sign of how far the Gay platform members had come in their fight, late last week they



Bill Kraus (Photo: Rink)

were joined by platform Chair Geraldine Ferraro (D-NY) in a photo session marked by laughter as Ferraro joked about her mother's reaction to speculation about her running as vice-president. Just weeks earlier Ferraro had repeatedly been quoted as insisting that no specifics on Gay rights be included in the platform.

Most observers saw the strong Gay rights plank as an indication that the New Right and publicity surrounding AIDS has not pushed back Gay rights. In fact, some saw the possibility that the attacks from the New Right and the horror of AIDS have, in fact, made it more likely for some straights to see Gays in more human terms.

W. Friday

Falwell May Cancel 'Forum'

(Continued from previous page)

for the personal security of Jerry Falwell. Ward would not discuss the seriousness of possible conflicts. Ward seemed equally unconcerned when informed of the religious organizations now on record in San Francisco as opposed to Falwell's religious teachings. He said, "That's the price you pay when you take a position."

The Moral Majority leader's appearance in San Francisco has sparked several major events. Wednesday, July 11, there will be an Interfaith Worship Service at Grace Episcopal Cathedral. Bishop William Swing, the Episcopal Bishop of California, is expected to officiate. The service will be sponsored by the All

Family Coalition. Some of the denominations represented are Roman Catholic, Presbyterians, Baptists, Jews, Methodists, the Metropolitan Community Church — with support of the San Francisco Council of Churches — and the anticipated official support of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Following that service at Grace Cathedral there is a planned walk to the Holiday Inn on Union Square where Falwell's forum is in session. People are being encouraged to participate in the opening hours of a 48-hour vigil.

Another group, the All People's Congress, has received a permit to present a rally Thurs-

day night from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. in Union Square. The rally will be political, not religious, and the number of groups uniting under this coalition will number in the hundreds and will represent a myriad of political, racial, and sexual stances.

The theme being presented throughout these events is that Jerry Falwell represents violence and commercialized hate. The planned show of community strength is planned to be made through nonviolent means. The All Peoples Congress a year ago mounted a strong and vocal protest against President Ronald Reagan and Queen Elizabeth, when thousands showed in the mud and rain for a rally in Golden Gate Park.

A group called the Coalition Against the Moral Majority plans another protest on Thursday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in front of the Holiday Inn. Hotel General Manager Bill Heller acknowledged there have been meetings with police regarding the safety of hotel guests. Reports indicate this group is comprised of many left-wing radical political organizations that may choose to incite violence. There have also been reports the group is bitterly split in strategy decisions.

In an effort to confront the potential for violence, Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Methodist Church has called a press conference for this morning at 10 a.m. His message is that violence is an aggressive act against the agenda of the person perpetrating the action.

Friday, July 13, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence plan an "exorcism" of Jerry Falwell at high noon in Union Square. According to a spokesperson for the Sisters, they have received a police permit and Sister Boom Boom will be the high priestess.

Significantly, all the organizations have defended the right of Jerry Falwell to speak in San Francisco. Each has acknowledged that he has a constitutional right to his belief.

All the groups planning protests against Falwell, from the All Family Coalition to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, have participated in discussions and have ongoing communication with the San Francisco Police.

A. White

NYC Mayor OK's Catholics' Anti-Gay Discrimination

Koch's Executive Order Goes to City Attorney for Ruling

by George Mendenhall

The Roman Catholic Church and the Salvation Army in New York City may continue to discriminate against Gays and Lesbians in hiring until the courts resolve the matter. This is the "negotiated truce" last week between Mayor Edward Koch and Archbishop John O'Connor over the mayor's Executive Order #50.

"This is special treatment. We are extremely disappointed," an official of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York said. Nancy Langer said, "The mayor did not stand behind his order which bars discrimination based on sexual orientation by all agencies doing business with the city. We had received a ruling from the city's legal department that the order was constitutional and the mayor could enforce it."

Virginia Apuzzo, chair of the National Gay Task Force, told *Bay Area Reporter*, "If the Catholic Church would look around, it would see who its political bedfellows are. They are using the same old red flag that was used against us in Miami and elsewhere — that homosexuals are questionable if they are working with children. That infuriates me. Since much of this funding involves children, the Church is being openly politically manipulative. It is holding children as hostages."

Archbishop O'Connor, who presides over the area's 1.8 million Catholics, said he was willing to lose over \$60 million in city funding for child-care services rather than sign the statement of compliance. He repeatedly said that it is a "fundamental church principle — the interference in what we felt is the intimate concerns of the church."

"INFRINGEMENTS"

When asked on the Cable News Network if he would hire openly Gay people in Catholic agencies, O'Connor said, "It is conceivable that we might voluntarily employ homosexuals who are involved in active practice. We would consider these on a case-by-case basis. What is the attitude of the individual? To what degree would the individual be willing to comply with provisions that the church would establish?"

The prelate insisted that agreeing to a city nondiscrimination order might open the door to other infringements. "There have been proposals that our agencies that provide would have to provide abortion counseling in order to receive public funds. Others believe we should remove displays of religion in agencies — such as crosses and sisters wearing religious habits."

"The church has the responsibility, in charity, to assist in as many ways as it can in providing for the needs of the people. There has to be a cooperative arrangement between state and church. Once that turns into an adversarial situation, where the state is looking over the shoulder of the church, then that relationship is lost."

After meeting with Koch and agreeing to let the courts decide the matter, O'Connor praised the mayor as being "very friendly, amiable and continuing our enjoyable relationship." Lambda Defense responded: "In this situation, we are very dubious that the city is going to vigorously defend its executive order in court as it has already openly refused to defend it. Koch has agreed — that the archdiocese can continue to discriminate."

Earlier, the Salvation Army was denied \$4 million when it

"They are using the same old red flag that was used against us in Miami: children."

— Virginia Apuzzo

also refused to comply with the Koch order. The Army's position was, "to comply would be equivalent to condoning homosexuality and thus violate church teaching." The group will also await the city attorney's ruling as to whether religious groups must comply.

Father Peter Finn, a spokesperson for the archdiocese, whom Apuzzo called "the Catholic Falwell," agreed with the Army position: "We are simply reiterating, without any way condemning anyone for being inclined homosexually, that we cannot and will not promote active homosexual behavior. Actively practiced, it is not right. It is an evil. It is a wrong way of behaving, just as a married man committing adultery. What we are specifying is that we would not be able to accept the promotion of active homosexual behavior as being acceptable." Apuzzo said O'Connor did not refute that comment.

DECISION AWAITED

Lambda Defense said it was "appalled that the archdiocese, which publicly stated that it is against discrimination, has refused to sign the order. While O'Connor insists that he does not want to violate church teachings, this clearly has nothing to do with church teachings."

Koch's temporary allowance for religious agencies to not comply appears to have already set a tone for what may follow. Lambda Defense states it is "seeking the legal options, to assure that the city will fully enforce its order." However, the city's legal counsel, Frederick Schwarz, said this week that he is looking into the question as to whether the city can issue an executive order to include homosexuals when they are currently denied protection under city, state and federal law.

Apuzzo said she is confident that the city attorney will be aggressive. She is meeting with Schwartz's staff members, at their request.

Apuzzo said that Lesbians and Gay men in New York will be looking closely at how Koch proceeds on this issue. She said Koch will face strong opposition in his re-election campaign in 1985 and both Gay people and progressives could be supporting

(Continued on page 12)

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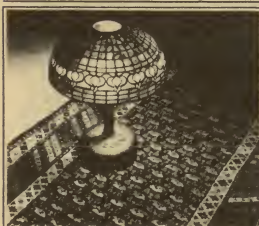
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ALL ANTIQUES FOR SALE

It's an Old Testament

Chronicling the Lives of the City's Gay Bars

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mike Hippler's been in the bars again, this time clutching a pencil and pad. His mission: chronicle the life and times of the Gay bars. In doing so, Mike joins Saints Peter and Paul, Chaucer, and Washington Irving as writers who have reduced oral histories to writing. What we end up with may be taken as gospel, but Mike's intention, rather, is to inform and entertain. Mike's Chronicles will conclude in the next issue of the Bay Area Reporter.

by Mike Hippler

I have never been much of a bar person. In fact, one of my first articles (which no one agreed to publish) was a shrill diatribe against the bars, and one of my earliest fantasies involved jumping up on a counter in the midst of a popular bar and screaming, "What are you all doing here? You know you hate it! Go home, go home, and lead lives like normal people!" (I was a novice faggot then and didn't realize that that is exactly what they were doing.)

Nevertheless, I have always recognized the role that bars have played in the history of our community. In the dim, dark days before Stonewall, they were certainly a positive alternative to toilets, parks, and Greyhound bus stations. Since then they have remained at the center of our social life, the most popular outlet we have — the only outlet some of us have — to meet each other. On Castro Street and its environs, they are legion, and, whether it is good or bad, along with the Gay-owned stores and businesses on the street, they form the focal point, if not the nucleus, of what is loosely termed the "Gay community."

For these reasons and simply for the sheer fun of it, I offer this whimsical but sincere history of the Gay bars in the Castro. For reasons of space, I have confined this study to the Inner Castro and have excluded restaurants from this category, unless they are attached to bars of long-standing. Most of my information comes from bar owners and managers themselves, as well as a few of the bar patrons I met. Because no memory is infallible, especially during Happy Hour, many may disagree with some of the "facts" presented here. If so, however, don't blame me, blame the people who can't remember the history of their own bars. Or better yet, blame Demon Rum.

The history of these bars is presented in roughly chronological order. Oh yes — if there is anything to add, if I have left something out about a favorite bar, don't hesitate to let me know. History is a diaphanous thing, disappearing when no one bothers to write it down.

THE DETOUR

The oldest Gay bar in the Castro is the Detour, which was known as the Missouri Mule in the mid-1960's. Ernie Asten, the owner of Cliff's Hardware, grew up in the area and was in high school when the Mule became a Gay bar. He remembers his friends gossiping about the place and paying close attention to who went there. It was one of the first Gay bars, however, which Gay people were not afraid to be seen entering, even though the building itself was owned by a policeman at the time and this was an era of police harassment of homosexuals. On Sundays, it was the afternoon hangout. A woman named Vivacious Vivian played the honkytonk piano as all order of Gay men gathered round.

In 1973 David Williams bought the bar and renamed it the Hombie. He sold it in 1976 to new owners who renamed it Chop's, and an attempt was made to turn it into a Southern California cocktail lounge, according to one neighborhood resident. In February 1981,



The Star of the Show. Bars bid for bartenders like producers trying to snare a top star for a new movie. Shown above, Dan of the QT. (Photo: Rink)

Chop's disappeared and a country-western bar named Patsy's took its place, named for Patsy Cline. The country-western phenomenon was short-lived, however (how many days in the week can you listen to a Patsy Cline record, after all?), and less than a year later, in December 1981, Patsy's gave way to the Detour.

At present the Detour is the closest thing the neighborhood has to a leather bar, and for a while it was the hottest pick-up bar in the area. (Some say that it still is.) It was also the site of recent controversy concerning its allegedly discriminatory admissions policy (women, get lost), although that brouhaha seems to have blown over. The place is usually filled with gym boys wearing denims and chaps, mostly in their 30's.

THE PENDULUM

The Pendulum has the unique distinction of being the only bar in the Castro to attract a predominantly Black clientele. Its owners, one straight and one Gay man, hesitate to call it a Black bar, and indeed, it is never entirely Black, but then, it's never entirely White either, like so many Castro bars. It wasn't always this way, explains owner Rod Kobila. In the beginning, over fifteen years ago when it was called the I Do Know, one of the area's first Gay bars, the bar attracted a neighborhood crowd in a neighborhood with very few Black people. Less than a year later the I Do Know became the Honey Bucket. In 1970 the Pendulum was born.

The early Pendulum is best described as a "head bar," states Kobila. "If you snorted it or sniffed it, you came here to drink it." Only gradually, about

seven years ago, did a Black crowd emerge. "This is because we didn't demand two ID's or try to keep them out, like others did," claims Kobila. "Everybody else wanted pretty young White boys. We were the first to hire a Black bartender and the first to play Black music. Naturally we then attracted a Black crowd. But it wasn't a deliberate effort."

In 1980 the bar expanded, doubling its size by taking over the business next door. And for eight or nine years, it has supported a well-known softball team, the Pendulum Pirates. The Pirates have been unusually successful. For five years in a row they won the City League. Then, in 1982, they won the Gay World Series in San Francisco. "People here are really proud of the team," Kobila concludes. "They should be. It's one of the things that brings us together."

THE PHOENIX

The Phoenix is the third Gay bar to occupy the site at 482 Castro. The first one was one of the earliest and most notable of the area's Gay bars, Toad Hall. Originally a straight bar, the A&D, Toad Hall opened about 1969 or 1970, according to present owner Ron Holmes. Says Holmes, "Toad Hall was born, really, when the Midnight Sun upped their prices a nickel and changed the decor of the bar from circus tents to salmon pink wallpaper with silver things on the walls. It was awful, and everybody moved up the street to Toad Hall."

For a while Toad Hall was the bar in the neighborhood, but by the late '70s it was a run-down establishment "with absolutely no energy," says Holmes. That's when he bought the place, in

1978. Along with the bar, Holmes obtained a dancing license, and he transformed Toad Hall into D.J.'s, the Castro's premier disco palace (Allie's excepted). Filled with thousands of dollars' worth of sound and light equipment, D.J.'s was a popular success, but the mood soon turned sour. "We had a lot of trouble," explains Holmes. "Too much dope, lots of fistfights. Finally, in the last two weeks, we had two stabbings of both the doorman and the manager. That's when I shut it down."

To discourage dancing and the kind of people D.J.'s attracted, Holmes ripped out the fancy lighting and sold half of it to Trocadero and half to the Army base cantina. He then replaced the lights with basic black and a motorcycle hanging from the ceiling and reopened the bar in the summer of 1981 as the Phoenix, a leather bar. "That didn't go over at all," says Holmes, "but we still get some leather people in there." Nevertheless, the bar was popular enough with someone that Holmes made and has continued to make money, and the Phoenix it remains.

THE MEN'S ROOM

Although the Men's Room, formerly the MiStake (with the S turned backward), is one of the older Gay bars around, no one can remember exactly when it became a Gay bar. Bar patrons vehemently disagreed with one another the afternoon I visited. All agreed that in the pre-earthquake days it was a lively stable, about after that the facts get hazy. One version is that the bar was originally a straight bar called the Palms, then Butler's, and then in 1962 it became the MiStake. The MiStake was owned by a straight woman, Arlene, who changed it to a Gay bar and whose husband drank her out of business. In 1976 two Gay men bought the place and renamed it the Men's Room. This seems the likeliest tale.

According to its patrons, the Men's Room attracts a neighborhood crowd. "The fun-loving crowd," claimed one. "The classy ones," shouted another. It is certainly a lively group. Calling themselves the Johnson Sisters (for reasons much too involved to enumerate), the Men's Room regulars not only drink together, they party together as well. Recently a group of 150 Johnson Sisters went to the Russian River (to Johnson's Beach?) for the Second Annual Johnson Sisters' Picnic. And when in town, they spend 90% of their time at the bar. "We all live here," claimed one of the sisters. "We love it here."

If truth be known, so do a number of celebrities, including the present Empress de San Francisco, Remy Martin. "Oh, she's here every day. This is the living room of her royal palace," one inebriated, middle-aged gossip queen divulged. "We even had her birthday party here last week." The Men's Room is also the stomping grounds for the Barbary Coast, the San Francisco G.D.I.'s, and the Cheaters, three of the many San Francisco motorcycle clubs who own no motorcycles. "Look, you can see our logos in the window," a club member volunteered. "And if you don't find us here, you can always find us at Febe's. That's our other home."

They may need that other home someday. According to local lore, the Men's Room is built over an ancient underground stream, which periodically causes its floor to collapse. If the whole building goes someday, the Johnson Sisters may have to relocate to Febe's permanently. ■

Lesbian Unionists Urge Up-Front Activism

'Old-Boy Network' Still Dominates Labor Movement, Say Panelists

by George Mendenhall

Four upfront Lesbian union activists addressed 80 of their sisters last week at a local forum. It was a first. They expressed dismay that the "old boy network" still dominates union leadership, a situation which discourages women from participating. Some participants said Lesbians had to be careful about which males to "come out" to because of the homophobic and sexist atmosphere at many workplaces. The panelists were living examples of Lesbians who did "come out" — and survived.

"Women are oppressed, but Lesbians are doubly oppressed," said Nancy Fields. "We have to convince the 'old boy network' that they need us as much as we need them. I urge you all to begin to take leadership roles in unions so we can move them ahead."

Fields, vice president of a large office workers union, explained that 42 percent of the workers in the United States are women, usually in nonunion positions. She said union women receive 30 percent higher wages than nonunion women. Fields urged Lesbians to realize that the same people who oppose labor oppose Gay rights.

Construction worker Molly Martin told of being "dyke-baited" in a union where members are called "brothers" and homophobic remarks are common. She said that in forming the evening's panel it was difficult

to find speakers because "so few Lesbians are 'out' on the job."

Teacher Nancy Elnor said that Lesbians and other women suffer the same problems as other minorities in unions. She stressed that although there are an increasing number of union nondiscrimination clauses, including those for Gay people, actual practice has not changed much. She was hopeful that there would be more people fighting the system, such as Lesbian



Nancy Fields told the audience that the same people who oppose Lesbian and Gay rights oppose unions. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

activist Merle Woo, who won her discrimination case and was re-instated by the University of California.

Pat Cull, who has been a carpenter for ten years, talked of her early years in the union — when even the Radical Caucus would not permit her to use the word "Gay." She said she was slandered in locker-room graffiti and then called a "trouble maker" when she complained. Cull said, "Although probably only half of the women carpenters are Lesbians, it is assumed

that they all are. When you talk about Lesbians coming out, you have to realize that just being a woman creates difficulties on the job."

One audience member possibly explained the success of the four panelists when she said, "Many respect you if you are a fighter and speak up for others' rights."

Fields said, "There is strength to be obtained from Lesbians and women uniting in such efforts as this forum. Unions are in trouble in this country. They

need Lesbians and Gay men if they are to survive. We should help the unions to become involved in social issues such as war, racism, health — and domestic partners."

The program was held at the Department Store Workers auditorium. It was organized by the Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance and its co-chair, Barbara Bane. Co-sponsors were the local NOW Labor Task Force and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

G. Mendenhall

Gay Boston City Leaders Propose Anti-Bias Law

Boston - Openly Gay City Council member David Scondras has introduced a sweeping anti-discrimination ordinance, which would create a city Human Rights Commission and prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, credit and services based on a wide-ranging set of circumstances, including sexual orientation.

— Gay Community News, Boston

National March Speakers Confirmed

The National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights, Sunday, July 15 announced the confirmation of eight new speakers. These eight will join Virginia Apuzzo, Morris Kight, Bill Olwell, and Bobbi Campbell in addressing a rally in San Francisco on the eve of the Democratic National Convention. The new speakers are:

- Rep. Karen Clark, Minnesota State Representative and the only upfront Lesbian to hold elected office in the nation.

- Harry Britt, Supervisor City and County of San Francisco who will welcome the National Marchers.

- Perry Watkins who was thrown out of the US Army for being Gay, after 16 years of service. He stated he was Gay upon being drafted during the Vietnam War, and was openly Gay throughout his service. He needed four more years in the service to retire.

- Flo Kennedy, a long time civil rights activist. She spoke eloquently at the first National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights in Washington, DC in 1979.

- Jose Gomez, the first openly Gay man on the National Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union. He is currently the Executive Director of La Raza Centro Legal. Formerly, he was Co-chair of the National Gay Task Force as well as Executive Assistant to Cesar Chavez.

- Adele Starr, President of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

- Miriam Ben-Shalom, who won a significant court case against the US Army regarding the policy of exclusion of Gays from military service.

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VOL. XIV NO. 26 JUNE 28, 1984

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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

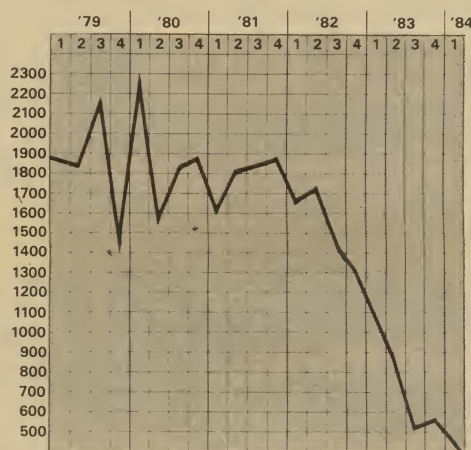
The Big Lie

Tell a lie well enough, tell it long enough, tell it to enough people — and it becomes the truth.

That was the judgment of a hack politician in Munich who discussed The Big Lie tactic in his book. He used the strategy himself, brilliantly. Ten years after publishing *Mein Kampf*, Adolph Hitler was in control of Germany.

There's a Big Lie making the rounds locally these days. This one is about us. The Big Lie is that Gay men are sexing it up just as much as ever — despite the presumed dangers of doing so in the face of the AIDS epidemic. "Sex . . . is said to be rampant in the bathhouses," the *Examiner* opined recently in an editorial in the Sunday paper.

Wrong. Of 14 Gay sex clubs and bathhouses open in 1983, five have now shut their doors. Business at the others is light — ask any cabbie. Official statistics of the San Francisco Department of Health really tell the truth: the biggest drop in VD in the City's history. Just look at the facts:



RECTAL GONORRHEA - TOTAL CASES, SAN FRANCISCO
(Number of Cases per Quarter - 1979-1983)

Let's all give ourselves credit for that. Changing our sex habits is probably the most important way to prevent the spread of AIDS (though no one is sure yet). And we are indeed changing our sex habits. So, while the newspapers cluck their tongues, while the moralists downtown shake their heads, while Lady Dianne gets weirder and weirder on this subject, we in the Gay community are *doing* something to stop AIDS.

But people all over town have bought the Big Lie. They can't understand why Gay men are humping like bunnies when there's a killer virus on the loose. No wonder they can't understand it: It's not true.

Let's get the truth out. Gay men are fighting the spread of AIDS. We must tell the truth well enough, long enough, and to enough people. Only then will it overcome the Big Lie.

And in the meantime, let's worry about sex less, and enjoy it more. Follow the "safe sex" guidelines: Avoid the exchange of body fluids.

Brian Jones

Maturity — Or Self-Hatred?

★ Re: Michael Lasky's editorial on growing up: Maturity is not a controversial topic. This is not a matter of sexual orientation, but of a society which sanctions materialism and undervalues knowledge; and expose to the discontinuous influence of TV and mass advertising.

Lasky's points, however, suggest it may be he who is in need of maturity. He suggests that if Gays trade lumberman's shirts for polyester; leave the "ghetto" for Union City, and "fulfill expectations for a conservative society" by marrying and having 10 kids they will be "mature." If Lasky has not come to terms with being Gay, isn't the self-hatred a bit childish to impose on readers of *B.A.R.*?

Exactly how productive selling out to "expectations of a conservative society's respect" is, is illustrated a few pages on by the comments of H. L. Richardson (who sounds extremely similar to Lasky's editorial). Repudiating Gayness and identifying with the oppressors is not going to mean acceptance. The Gays hounded and persecuted during the McCarthy era were not "flaunting" Gayness. We do not cause the oppression, we are the victims.

Jerry Jansen
San Francisco

Loves Lasky

★ While I often agree with what I read in the "Viewpoint" section of *B.A.R.*'s editorial pages, I agree so much with what I read in the issue currently in circulation I felt compelled to comment.

Mr. Lasky's observations of the "Peter Pan Syndrome" are both timely and considered. Too often, I suspect, we categorically reject the Freudian explanation of homosexuality because it, is, after all, a bit unflattering — and then go out with our friends (and boyfriends) and amuse ourselves with excesses that, in any other social context, we would label adolescent. I know that I, personally, justify my own foolish forays back to childhood, decked out in urban Gay costume, on the grounds that I deserve to "let off steam" in dozens of Gay approved pleasure domes that make "Saturday Night Fever" seem absolutely middle-aged. We assure ourselves (and each other) that we harm no one but ourselves — and yet, I've learned not to schedule any kind of business meeting before noon or Mondays or after lunch on Friday because here in Oz that is still part of the completely sacred escape period: the weekend! (To discuss serious matters during the weekend is to treat the subject to an injustice — since one or all of those in the discussion is most likely hung-over from either booze, dope or the fantasy of a 9 inch wanger, and not giving the matter his best shot, anyway.)

Walter F. Rowan
San Francisco

Violence and Its Result

★ I would like to address myself to my "Gay brothers" who were sunbathing with me in Dolores Park on Sunday afternoon, June 17. I see a lot of you there every week and though I haven't spoken with many of you, I always have felt very much at home there, relaxing, getting a little sun, looking at the nice view.

You gentlemen might also remember that at approximately noon of that same day, I was assaulted by three Chicano men. You must remember — you were all laying around me. If memory serves me well, these three men insulted me, threw beer bottles, advanced on me and physically threatened me. One even offered to "blow me away" with the .45 he supposedly had in his

jacket pocket. You remember now, don't you? It was real theater.

I stood up to these people (I figured they would have to knock me down before they could kick me). Unfortunately, I also was forced to brandish a beer bottle and threaten them with it. I say unfortunately because outside of the boxing ring, I am very much opposed to physical violence. If these hoodlums had a valid complaint against me, we would have settled it one-on-one like gentlemen, but these cowardly illiterate creeps run in packs — like coyotes, like animals.

We hear about these pseudo-macho Latino punks hassling Gays. This really did not surprise me at all. They were pretty smart, though — I think they realized they could hassle me with little or no interruption. And you know, they were right. But there were only three of them. What surprised me was that 15 or 20 of you that were laying around did absolutely nothing to help me. I realize that you were all busy with your Walkmans and suntan oil and boring gossip and checking out each other's baskets, but come on! Not one of you even said "Leave that person alone."

In short, as far as I am concerned, you all really lived up to the sissy Gay myth in spades. I can take your fucking attitude and rudeness in the bars (one has to endure asshole and that's a full-time occupation when you live in the Castro) but this! He-men/butch/muscle-bound nelly cowards is what you all are. One of you even had the mindless bad taste to tell a friend who arrived later that he "missed the show." You really don't have much going on above the eyebrows, do you mister?

I have nothing but contempt for every one of you. This happened two days ago and I still literally have a bad taste in my mouth. On the positive side — although I was looking forward to marching with my roommate in the AIDS contingency in this week's coming Gay Freedom Day Parade, I have felt a lack of energy for the parade. Now I have an excuse to not attend — I won't have to deal with the hypocrisy. I have nothing to celebrate with any of you and I feel that besides the fact that we all prefer men in our beds, I have nothing in common with any of you. Not only nothing in common, but I wanted to beat the hell out of every one of you. Sunday's experience was truly a frightening one on many levels. I hope you gentlemen never have to face it when I am around, 'cause sissy boys, you'll get no help from me.

Stephen G. Turner
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: One of the most frequent responses seen from victims of violence is to lash out at unrelated people, places or things. In this case, your rage toward your attackers seems to have been redirected toward other Gays.

We live in a time when many don't want "to get involved" when a citizen is in trouble. This is neither a Gay nor a straight phenomenon; it is a human one. On the other hand, the Gay community's record on citizens responding non-violently to violent attacks on others is a proud one. Many cases could be cited where, at the foot of a crime-stoppers whistle, dozens of "sissies" came running to the aid of another. The recent stabbing at the Midnight Sun, during which a Gay man nearly lost his own life to protect a woman, certainly challenges your criticism of the bar crowd.

The worst long-term effect of an attack such as the one you described is this: It tends to convince the victim he did something to deserve the crime; it's the "blame the victim" syndrome. You seem to have bought into this dynamic by expressing homophobic hatred toward your own people — because you were attacked by some straights. Please see this psychology for what it is, and transcend it. There is indeed Gay community here, and for the most part, it stands ready to support all of us who are a part of it.

Brian Jones

B.A.R.

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LETTERS

Wallace Responds

★ The letter slandering me in last week's letters column has a distinct Coitel-type whiff about it. The writer apparently slithers about under an assumed name while playing the role of provocateur. It will take more than the ravings of a single imposter to prevent July 15th from being one of the greatest events in our history.

Howard Wallace
San Francisco

Ready to Explode

★ I am sick of hearing how heterosexuals are concerned about our health and safety as they attempt to regulate our sex lives. It's time to stop discussing the "bathroom issue." Our response to the invasion of our private lives should be an emphatic "NO."

I think there is a misconception about the attitude of the community on this issue. There are a lot of us out here who are ready to explode. We are not as apathetic as some would have you believe. We just don't know what to do . . . yet we won't be wasting our time trying to be rational about our response.

Paul Sehn
San Francisco

East Bay Gay Day

★ I would like to publicly thank Bob Geleges, Barbara diJeanene and all the others who made East Bay Lesbian/Gay Day a success.

Jon Sugar
San Francisco

Well, Was He?

★ I think the "Gay Experience" was best summed up for me by the following exchange:

"This guy was actually trying to drive nails into my head."

"Oh, really? Was he cute?"

Strange de Jim
San Francisco

Bundles of Thanks

★ The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus would like to thank your newspaper, Leticia's, and the community for the publicity and support we received at our first newspaper drive and garage sale on May 19th.

On that Saturday, our garage sale brought in more than \$1,000.00 to help produce the Sixth Annual Gay Musical Celebration (June 22, Nourse Auditorium). And the success of the newspaper drive took us all by surprise. We filled the newspaper bin that was provided, and still had phone calls asking us to pick up more newspapers from homes (Sorry, we'll be better prepared next time). The total amount collected was 25,280 pounds. This effort kept 12 and a half tons of newspapers from being thrown away, saved over 200 trees from being cut down to make new newspapers, and raised \$570 for the chorus.

Gregg Nicholson
San Francisco

Down on Demos

★ The recent primary election provided a backdrop for the usual outpourings of invective by the SF "Gay establishment" against the person and policies of President Reagan; some of the blatherings from the likes of H. Britt, S. Burton, W. Brown, and their lesser stooges from the various political groups went beyond any reasonable dissent, and bordered on imbecility. Add to this the "celebrity" mouthings of such freaks as J. Fonda, B. Streisand, E. Asner, and so on, and you have a most interesting situation of "party-line" politics. But wait! One glimmer of hope comes along to expose the Democrats and their real feelings about homosexuals.

I refer to an article in the *Wall Street Journal* on Good Friday of this year, written by that paragon of Democrats, that bosom buddy of JFK, one Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Harvard's gift to the Kremlin. We all know Schlesinger as the author of coffee-table biographies of not only JFK, but the old whore himself, FDR. But in the *WSJ*, he outdid himself in trying to dump his considerable supply of drivel onto President Reagan. It is in his reference to Mr. Reagan's Hollywood career that Schlesinger truly comes into his own — I quote: "The proclaimed champion of traditional morality, Reagan has undoubtedly in a long Hollywood career spent more of his life in association with adulterers, alcoholics, homosexuals, people who procure abortions and take drugs, than any previous president."

Are you listening Jane, Sala, Ed, Willie, Dianne . . . ? And Harry, why haven't you changed your party?

Thomas Zimmermann
San Francisco

Man-Boy Love

★ After reading the June 13 *Examiner* article on Eckhard Schmitz, we feel compelled to respond with some observations and comments.

According to the information given in the article, it appears that Mr. Schmitz's biggest crime was to choose to involve himself with young people who were under the "Age of Consent," an arbitrary limitation set by state law and enforced with a suspicious zeal. The image of a lust-crazed "monster" preying on young innocents is simply not appropriate given the clearly consensual nature of these relationships.

Sadly, Mr. Schmitz was probably right in his assumption that he wouldn't survive in prison. Persons who are imprisoned for having sex with minors are usually considered fair game for physical abuse of every kind including raping by other prisoners and often, the guards as well. Schmitz fled the country rather than face a cruel and unusual fate inside prison walls. It seems patently unjust to punish someone whose "victims" certainly were old enough to say no. In this day and age it is a rare teenager who doesn't understand what sexual activity is. Even if the boys were offered money and gifts they still had the choice to refuse.

As usual the so-called "victims" aren't asked for their feelings or comments. The police have had their say, told their version. Friends and associates have made their statements. Nobody seems interested in what the boys themselves think about all this. Since the 1930's studies on children involved in sexual encounters with adults have usually found that rarely are there any long-term harmful effects on the young person from the encounter itself. Rather, the harm is done by the reactions of hysterical parents, and the over-zealous investigating and interrogations by law enforcement officials.

Why then, does law enforcement in this state persist in disrupting and destroying the lives of so many in such a public way for what ought to be handled carefully and discreetly? Why are adults who engage in consensual acts with "minors" get put in jail along with murderers, and armed thieves?

Is this "crime" commensurate with the punishment in every case? It is time our society began to re-examine this issue.

Kermit Cuff, Jr.
Kelly Lee
Mountain View

No Fan of the Mayor

★ The recent revelation by Mayor Feinstein of her huge budget surplus reflects what the mayor did not do to save that much money. Anybody can save money in their budgets if they do not spend it. Refusal to spend money on the city's problems is cause for Feinstein's dismissal as mayor. Think of what she could have done for the city! She could have used some of the money to help house and feed the over 10,000 or so homeless. She could also have granted several millions of dollars to local scientists to help find the solution to the horrible disease of AIDS.

The budget surplus also could have paid unemployed youngsters, men, and women to clean the city streets. Many of the streets are covered with cast off papers, spoiling junk food, and dog droppings.

Another illustration of the mayor's venality was recently dramatized when the Board of Supervisors discovered that she had accepted \$6,000 worth of pro-football tickets from the two pro teams in the Bay Area. The supervisors forbade her to participate any further with the negotiations for a new ball park to replace the old Candlestick Park.


Many of these problems could have been solved by any far-sighted manager, but Feinstein is blind to all of her opportunities to make the city great and help out the people. Her insensitivity is disgusting. There seems to be a conspiracy among the people in radio, TV and some newspapers that the city is a glamorous place to live. Not yet! But it could be if we had a mayor with vision enough to lead the citizens. Feinstein is too busy keeping the rents up on her properties and having her *gluteus maximus* kissed by the wealthy and her betters and she returns these favors by her policies that favor them.

Richard Browne
San Francisco

Letter Policy

★ The *Bay Area Reporter* welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter — this information will not be published.

In order to print as many views as possible, we ask letter writers to be brief. To promote diversity in the Open Forum, we favor letters from writers who do not appear frequently, over repeated correspondence from a single author.



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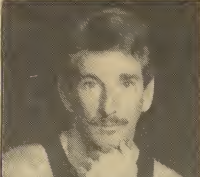
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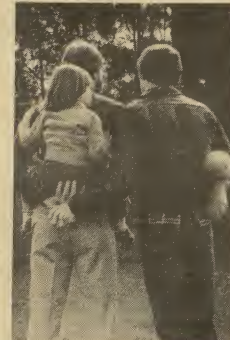
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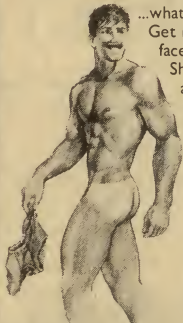
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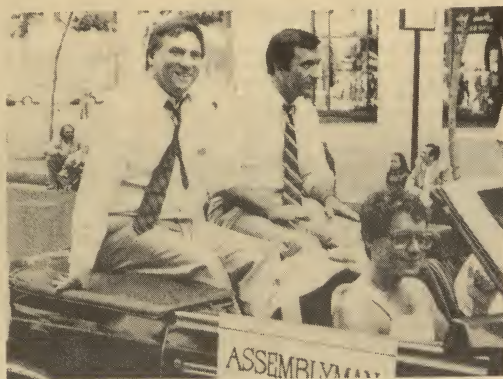
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POLITICS AND POKER

Is the Parade Passe?

WAYNE FRIDAY



Who Gets to be Mayor? Art Agnos (r.) wants to trade his Assembly seat for Room 200 in City Hall. But John Molinari might get there first. If Lady Di gets the nod for Veep, the supes would fill her chair until the next election — and Jack Molinari (l.) is the only supe with enough votes on the board to move on up.

Parades and rallies across the country this past week celebrated Gay freedom and commemorated the Stonewall riot. That was the 1969 rebellion in New York when riots broke out after cops there raided the Stonewall bar. The celebrations last week proved again that the movement is alive and well. Parades and celebrations were held in cities from San Francisco to New York City, where more than 100,000 took part, making it that city's biggest Gay parade ever. Tony-winning playwright Harvey Fierstein led New York's parade and thousands staged a sit-in outside St. Patrick's Cathedral to protest Archbishop John J. O'Connor's refusal to sign the anti-discrimination pledge against Gays.

Parades and rallies were held in Chicago; Seattle; Columbus, Ohio; and Hartford, as well as in Los Angeles, San Jose, and two dozen other cities the previous weekend — and for the first time, Gay and Lesbian activists in Fargo, North Dakota (you read it right, Fargo, North Dakota) are celebrating that city's first-ever observation of Gay Pride Week. In San Francisco everyone I spoke with had a good time, though many have told me they passed it up this year ("It's the same parade year after year" . . . or "We've seen it all before") . . . and though they are not saying so publicly, parade organizers themselves seemed disappointed at the considerably less than 300,000 predicted turnout, leading more than a few to think that maybe the parade has served its purpose and it is indeed time to go on to something else.

One of the parade organizers admitted to me that it is true that after 12 years, it is almost predictable what the parade will be, practically down to the formation of the marchers — "The Dykes on Bikes will predictably lead it off; the Gay Band will then soon follow. The 'Sisters' act is growing tired. Milton Marks will predictably be there; Dianne predictably won't be there; etc." Oh, well, what the hell, it is still a party; but then, it would be nice if a lot of this energy was maybe directed at voter registration and then getting those hundreds of thousands out to vote to help rid us of the likes of Reagan, Dukemejian, and a couple of supervisors I could name.

In Washington last week, Demo boss Chuck Manatt made the "surprise" announcement that New York Governor Mario Cuomo would give the keynote address at next month's convention. Well, what's the big "surprise"? This column predicted that one in March. Incidentally, Cuomo's new book, *Diaries of Mario M. Cuomo*, is giving Ed Koch a run on the booksellers' lists. • Dennis Collins, Supervisor Dick Hongisto's administrative aide for the past three years, will be leaving City Hall at the end of July; Collins, the public relations director of the Toklas Club, has been a valuable asset for Hongisto as well as a valuable source at City Hall for the Gay community.

Of all those making the trek to North Oaks, Minnesota, for the "interview" with Fritz Mondale, our own Dianne Feinstein

appears to have reaped the most publicity; her photo appeared yet again this Monday in the *New York Times* and reporters who went with the mayor to partake in what Jesse Jackson calls a "public relations parade" (this might be the first time in this campaign I've agreed with Jackson) claim that Feinstein came off looking great. But then, hell, I might as well admit it — she's already my candidate for governor anyway. • As for the real vice presidential picture — look for Arkansas Senator Dale Bumpers to eventually get the nod, with South Carolina Senator Ernest Hollings as Mondale's second choice, though you shouldn't be entirely surprised if Hart and Mondale patch it up and eventually share the ticket. Incidentally, odds-makers in Las Vegas already have Mondale as a 4 to 1 underdog in the November election.

I hope the Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights are aware that Assembly Republicans have asked Dukemejian to veto \$672.2 million in general fund spending from the \$31 billion state budget sent to him, and that among the Democratic appropriations that the Republicans have tagged for vetoes is \$500,000 for AIDS education efforts.

Community College Board president Tim Wolfred is campaigning hard for reelection, hoping to lead the ticket in November in that race. • They love her in Oakland, too — the *Tribune* ran a phone poll last week asking if Dianne Feinstein was "qualified" to be vice president and Oakland callers gave the mayor 61% to 39% approval.

Even a couple of Toklas members tell me they think the recent newsletter put out by that club taking a shot at Harry Britt's position on governmental regulations on the bathhouses was a bit cheap. Those taking credit for writing the latest Alice "news update" accuse Britt of "waffling" and seem hell-bent on keeping the anti-Britt, anti-Milk club line going. • A campaign headed by former Senator Sam Hayakawa apparently has turned in enough signatures to the secretary of state to qualify an initiative to halt foreign-language voting for the November ballot. • In New Orleans this Sunday, Gay activists are asking Catholics to drop a form in the collection plate calling for talks on divorce, birth control, and homosexuality. The campaign is in response to Archbishop Philip Hannan's opposition to a Gay rights ordinance rejected in

April by the New Orleans City Council. Gay rights activists say Hannan's opposition prompted the council's action.

Harry Britt certainly tipped his hand as to who he is pushing when he introduced Assemblyman Art Agnos from the stage at the Parade rally Sunday by claiming that "many of us would like to see Art Agnos as our next mayor," while some grumbled, "Speak for yourself, Harry." Most political observers realize that Harry would like to see Art vacate his Assembly seat for obvious reasons. • Local Republicans expected to soon start hawking a new political item for the fall campaign — a six-inch tan ceramic cowboy boot filled with six ounces of jellybeans and carrying the seal of the President of the United States (are you ready?) and the name of Ronald Reagan. The boot is being offered as a fundraising gimmick at \$96 for a case of 12, and Republicans are being urged to buy the "one-of-a-kind commemorative gift" for \$8, and resell them for \$12 (are you reading this Duke Armstrong?).

While discussing what would happen if Mayor Feinstein goes on to bigger and better things before the end of her present term, reporters on Viacom's (Channel 6) "City Desk" show last week agreed that Jack Molinari was probably the only supervisor who could put together the board votes to succeed her. • Memo to Con Murphy: This is no way to welcome the Democrats to San Francisco. SFPD black-and-white cruiser number 199 was spotted on Polk Street this week with a prominent "Reagan-Bush '84" bumper sticker. ■

AIDS Fundraiser at The Obelisk

The Obelisk gift store, 489 Castro Street, is engaging in a major fundraising effort for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Obelisk will donate 15 percent of all sales made during the period of June 22, 1984 through July 22, 1984, to the Foundation.

The Obelisk will have lucite boxes placed at each register. At the conclusion of each sale, 15 percent of the sale amount will be placed in the donation box with the total amount to be presented to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation July 23, 1984.



A GAY VIEW FROM WASHINGTON

Revisiting Basic Principles — June 1984

LARRY BUSH

Part III: Gays Getting Government to Respond

A "Christians for Reagan" effort (to be backed with \$2 million) has announced that it will link Gays and the Democrats in a series of pejorative television ads to be aired this fall. Some Reagan reelection officials also are publicly suggesting that they will have an advantage because of the perception that the Democrats support Gays, while Reagan supports traditional families. Jerry Falwell's and Phyllis Schlafly's appearances in San Francisco just before the Democratic Convention are meant to underscore that position. As well, the recent cancellation by the Administration's top health official of a Fund for Human Dignity awards ceremony honoring the Blood Sisters program, created in response to the AIDS crisis, also was meant to distance the Reagan team from Gays.

On the other hand, the creation by a group of Republican Washington aides of a new Gay group to counter the Moral Majority's influence within their party is the most hopeful sign this year that some progress can be made. Simply by being there, they will have moved the Moral Majority further to the right, placing them more on the fringe. More importantly, the emergence of this group underscores the reality that most Gays implicitly understand — anti-Gay efforts simply drive more people from the closet.

The transitions taking place this year are part of a social change process that was inevitable as Gays become more identified in their own minds as a group — a new ethnic bloc in American life. The transition from a purely political movement gives freer range for a diversity in political opinions, as well as for progress through non-political means. It also means the fuller emergence of precisely those programs in the Gay community's social service efforts that government was tailored to support. Because few of these developments hinge on a specific event, and because politicians and the media are so oriented to responding to events, there has been little focus on the social change process that Gays are now undergoing.

Gay groups, particularly at the national level, also are not having an easy time dealing with these changes. Interestingly, the one leader who most seems to appreciate the meaning and importance of these changes is the National Gay Task Force's Virginia Apuzzo, whose background in Brooklyn's ethnic Italian neighborhoods seems to give her an intuitive understanding of leadership in an emerging ethnic group such as Gays are becoming. The late Harvey Milk, who had a background in New York's Jewish centers, represented the same understanding in articulating to Gay people a vision of what they might become as a community.

But while Apuzzo has been lauded for her inspirational role

in the Gay community — and as a community builder — few have stopped to consider that among her major accomplishments has been the push to "make government responsive" to Gays.

It was Apuzzo who pushed the Reagan Administration on such issues as rewriting the guidelines on when people with AIDS became eligible to receive social security disability payments. It was Apuzzo who jawboned the Administration on working with Gay health groups in serving the people with AIDS as well as in providing reliable information on AIDS. It was Apuzzo who not only pushed at the doors of politicians but has made them come out of the doors to meet the community in a partnership to address Gay needs.

And it was Apuzzo who fought with her own board members to see that all the doctors on the Fund for Human Dignity mailing lists were provided with material on AIDS (the board believed the Fund should not have "programs," a position now reversed). It was Apuzzo who launched the Violence Hotline project and then did not shirk from such issues as Gay domestic violence because it might damage the "image" of Gays.

Obviously, these are not accomplishments that she has made singlehandedly, and the staff at the National Gay Task Force has maintained a remarkable performance level given their resources. It is also not only appropriate, but crucial to an understanding of how goals must be pursued, that Gays, both open and undisclosed, in many agencies, news media operations, and on Capitol Hill have provided vital assistance and leadership in their own right.

The reason this is important is that it illustrates that the shifts now underway can open new opportunities, and not merely present some new "crisis." If a cloud remains on that prospect, it was the recent article by Gay Rights National Lobby board member Tom Bastow seeking to claim credit for GRNL on the federal AIDS response.

It is understandable that the turmoil at the Lobby might cloud the thinking of its leaders, but it would be dangerous for the premises Bastow uses in his newspaper commentary to go unanswered.

Bastow claims that the legwork of various GRNL members in key congressional dis-

tricts opened the way for increases in federal AIDS funding, and that the GRNL's secret channels in Washington provided the needed justification for those increases.

It is appropriate — and overdue — for GRNL's leaders to hand out some credit to its members who have worked hard to get their elected representatives to listen to Gay concerns.

But Bastow never addresses the key role played by Gay staffers on Capitol Hill, a resource that has only emerged in the past several years and which has completely altered the ability of Gays to raise issues in Congress. He makes no mention of the role of the national media, and Gays in the media, in forcing public attention on the AIDS crisis — although key congressional chairmen have repeatedly made the point that the media attention played a major role.

Most importantly, Bastow only views the federal response in terms of research dollars, and omits any mention of the role of Gay health groups and education groups in the AIDS crisis.

It is precisely at this point — understanding that the federal government plays an enormous role in funding public education and counseling programs, and that government policy is based on the understanding that those outreach programs are best administered by local, community-based institutions — where the line is drawn between merely playing at politics and making the government itself responsive. This is the partnership issue between Gays — as a community — and their government which has the potential to reshape the Gay political agenda.

Nor are those changes just at the federal level. This year has seen a still nascent but active effort to rewrite government benefit programs and insurance offerings so that Gay couples can receive spouse coverage. A bill has been introduced already in Minneapolis, others are under consideration in Oakland, California, and Madison, Wisconsin, and discussions are taking place in Ohio, New York, and Washington, DC. These changes are a wide departure from the libertarian, hand-off agenda and move much more directly to see that the institutions of government and society take into account the reality of Gay lives. That may still be visionary — even many Gays are uncertain what changes would prove beneficial — but simply raising it as a goal is a profound shift. ■

More Gays Will Be on Demo Convention Floor

Carole Migden, President of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, was appointed last week as an alternate delegate for Walter Mondale to the upcoming Democratic Convention.

Migden is the fifth San Francisco Gay activist to earn a delegate or alternate slot. Supervisor Harry Britt and Glenn Craig, both former Milk Club Presidents, will be delegate and alternate, respectively, for Gary Hart. More than 50 open Les-

bians and Gay men nationally will be among the 5,426 delegates and alternates on the Convention floor at Moscone Center in July.

Bill Kraus, also a former Milk Club President, is serving on the Platform Committee and has been the leading figure, along with Virginia Apuzzo of the National Gay Task Force, in the successful fight for a commitment to Lesbian and Gay rights in the Democratic Party platform. ■

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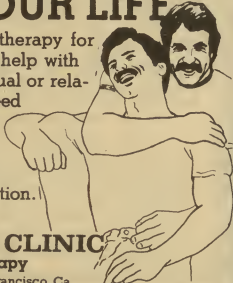
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NATIONAL NEWS

US Mayors' Conference Endorses Gay/Lesbian Rights

The US Conference of Mayors June 19 endorsed a resolution recommending "that all levels of Government adopt legal protections for the rights of Gay and Lesbian Americans," at its annual meeting in Philadelphia. Commenting on the passage of the resolution, National Gay Task Force Executive Director Virginia M. Apuzzo said, "This is explicit recognition that discrimination based on sexual orientation is a reality in the everyday lives of Gay and Lesbian Americans. It also places legislative and executive efforts to remedy this problem squarely within the general civil rights agenda."

The Conference is the first organization of elected officials to take a position in favor of Gay and Lesbian civil rights. The resolution addressed discrimination in employment, housing, and the criminal and civil justice systems, as well as government policies excluding Gays and Lesbians from military service and immigrating to the United States.

The issue was the first considered by the Conference's Committee on Human Development during a presentation by Apuzzo in Washington, DC in January. The resolution's sponsors — Arthur J. Holland of Trenton, NJ; Thomas H. Cook of East Orange, NJ; and Marion

S. Barry, Jr., of Washington, DC — all argued for passage during a Resolutions Committee debate on Sunday. Cook said it was "incumbent (upon) enlightened public officials" to provide equal opportunity for all citizens. Mayor Holland suggested that specific protections were needed because Gay and Lesbian rights were not implicit in the Constitution. Barry reminded his colleagues that no matter how small their city, they had Gay and Lesbian constituents who needed legal protections.

More than fifty state and local jurisdictions in the United States already have legal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation. "Today's action," NGTF's Apuzzo said, "will be a major impetus for a push by local groups to expand that list."

Cincinnati Appeal Lost

Setback for Gay Teachers

The US Court of Appeals in Cincinnati has ruled that a high school guidance counselor could be fired for declaring her sexual orientation to a secretary.

In a 2-1 decision, the Court reversed a \$40,000 judgment won at the trial level in the case of Rowland v. Mad River Local School District. National Gay Rights Advocates participated in the case as *amicus curiae* in support of Ms. Rowland.

Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director, said: "We firmly believe that Ms. Rowland's First Amendment rights were violat-

ed. In addition, there is an Equal Protection of the laws problem. Obviously, a straight teacher would not be discharged for revealing the fact of their sexual orientation." Noting the conflict with the recent NGRA victory in the Oklahoma case, Graff indicated that more litigation will be necessary.

Jean O'Leary, NGRA Executive Director, said: The impact of the Court's ruling is that it's fine to be a closeted teacher but expect to get fired if you come out. This is not an acceptable position for Gay people in

America in 1984." O'Leary said that NGRA would help with the briefing and strategy in filing for a rehearing *en banc* (by all the judges in the Court of Appeals).

In a stinging dissent, Judge Edwards chided his colleagues for disregarding the jury verdict for Ms. Rowland. He went on to say:

"The Constitution protects all citizens of the United States; no language therein excludes the homosexual minority. Like all citizens, homosexuals are protected in these great rights, certainly to the extent of being homosexual and stating their sexual preference in a factual manner where there is no invasion of any other person's rights."

National Gay Republicans Very Subdued, Hold First Regional Meetings

by George Mendenhall

"There's a tremendous frustration out there among moderate-to-conservative Gays who have had to sit on the sidelines and watch a more liberal element of the community being presented as their representatives. There are productive, law-abiding citizens who believe in the tradition this country was founded on — and happen to be Gay."

Bruce Decker, a Gay San Francisco political consultant, was speaking out in the *Gay Dallas Voice* last week. He has helped form the new Concerned Americans for Individual Rights, a Gay group that has been holding regional conferences in Washington, DC (with 100 in attendance) and New York City in the past month. In late June the group will have a regional meet in Los Angeles, followed by a July session in San Francisco.

Conservative Gay activist Leonard Matlovich was announced as the new head of the Washington, DC-based Concerned Americans. He sold his

Guernville pizza parlor and has been touring Europe. Matlovich had said that he would help gather signatures for the recent initiative effort by Larry Littlejohn, which was aimed at ending sex activity in steam baths — after returning from a European tour. The initiative was not promoted by Littlejohn after the city health director moved to end sex in the baths.

Dallas activists have indicated that there will be no up-front Gay people demonstrating or appearing on the floor at the Republican convention in August. Decker adds there will be Republican delegates who "happen to be Gay" but he knew of none who would be out of the closet. During the convention, the Right Wing "Free Congress Foundation" will be meeting in Dallas with a workshop entitled "How to Help Homosexuals Solve Their Problem." Dallas Gay GOP members plan no reaction to the workshop. One Dallas activist told *Bay Area Reporter*, "We have to live here after everyone else leaves."

Decker explained in the *Dallas Voice* that the Dallas regional meet of the new national Gay GOP group will not be publicized as "we do not want to attract any disruptive elements . . . and protect those who do not wish to be visible."

What will the new Concerned Americans group be doing? Decker said "action" would be taken to counter lobbying by Free Congress and the Moral Majority. He said this would be done through education "and we will not be involved in supporting or opposing legislation or any candidates. Our plan is to establish a library and resource center."

Decker is a San Francisco political consultant who worked in Richard Nixon's 1972 campaign and in the White House under Gerald Ford. He is a former member of the local Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights.

Tom Peretti, president of CRIR, said he has heard no word from the new national group and is unaware of its political stand. He said he had not been informed of the Decker-organized Concerned Americans area meeting to take place here next month.

Task Force Sues Pentagon Over Discharge Policy

Washington, DC — The National Gay Task Force has filed suit to overturn the armed forces' policy of systematically issuing less-than-honorable discharges to military personnel who are discharged because of their homosexuality.

Joined as plaintiffs by six Gay veterans and a group representing Vietnam veterans, NGTF charged in U.S. District Court here that more than 5,000

veterans have been less-than-honorably discharged for conduct that bore no relation to their military service performance.

"This action is one of a series of efforts by NGTF against the last remaining government-sanctioned form of discrimination," NGTF executive director Virginia Apuzzo said.

"The policy of granting less-than-honorable discharges on

the basis of sexual orientation is especially abhorrent in light of the dedication and pride with which Gay men and Lesbians have served and are serving their country," she continued.

The suit, which is a class-action that would affect thousands of discharge cases, seeks to force the Defense Department to upgrade all such discharges to honorable, unless it can prove that in each case, the homosexual conduct "directly and adversely" affected the performance of military duties.

— Washington Blade

New Editors for Bay Area Reporter

CUAV

Coping With Your Case

RANDY SCHELL



New Editors, Dianne Gregory, entertainment editor, and Brian Jones, news editor, of the Bay Area Reporter. (Photo: Rink)

The Bay Area Reporter has named two new editors, Dianne Gregory and Brian Jones.

Gregory, former associate editor, assumes the post of entertainment editor. She will be responsible for the Arts & Entertainment, Sports & Fitness, and B.A.R. Bazaar sections.

Jones, former associate editor, assumes the post of news editor. He will be responsible for the news section and the Greater Bay section.

Gregory, 28, came to the B.A.R. last August from a stint as News Editor of the Florida Flambeau — an independent college daily associated with Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. She graduated from F.S.U. in 1978 with

a bachelor's degree in Political Science, and returned to Tallahassee in 1980 to pursue a master's degree in History, a project which has been put on permanent hold.

Jones, 28, has been a staff writer for the Miami Herald, the Fort Lauderdale News and the Minneapolis Tribune. He was news editor of The Weekly News, a 12,000-circulation Gay newspaper in Miami, in 1981. From 1981 through 1983, he edited and managed Equal Time, a 11,000-circulation Lesbian and Gay newspaper in Minneapolis. Jones moved to San Francisco and began writing for the Bay Area Reporter in December 1983. He is also local correspondent for The Weekly News and Chicago Gay Life.

Des Moines Homophobia Defeats Gay GOP Candidate

by George Mendenhall

Rich Eychaner, a wealthy Des Moines van line owner, surprised Republican officials in Iowa when he placed a poor third in his Primary bid to oppose incumbent Democrat Neal Smith in Iowa's 4th Congressional District. Many had predicted that Eychaner's recent coming out as a Gay person would not seriously hurt the election odds. He was favored to win.

The first place winner was stockbroker Robert Lockard, with businessman Scott Hayes second.

The only factor that evidently defeated Eychaner (IKE-ner) was his admitted homosexuality. State GOP leaders praised the candidate; the executive director of the Iowa Republican Party, Luke Roth, said, "He did everything right. He did everything you need to do to get elected, but he had one problem — he's Gay."

Bay Area Reporter called attention to the Eychaner campaign last month. Two local members of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, Bruce Decker and Gary Myerscough, had sent out a mailer asking for local financial help for the candidate. They had contemplated bringing Eychaner to San Francisco this summer for a fundraiser.

The Des Moines Register had featured the Eychaner candidacy in a major article. It quotes a former state GOP chair as saying that it was unfortunate that the candidate "has got this problem." Stan Sheldon, an Iowa GOP County chair, was more blunt: "I wouldn't back him for

dogcatcher. We should put the homosexuals on an island and let 'em get along by themselves."

Although rival candidates did not initiate a homophobic campaign, GOP voters in Iowa evidently still feel uncomfortable about electing a Gay person. ■

The Criminal Justice System is a complex and confusing labyrinth that can be very intimidating. CUAV's advocacy program is designed to get you through this labyrinth without intimidation. Instead of calling ten different numbers and speaking to people you don't know, you can call us at 864-3112 and we can get the information for you.

We can assist you in filing police reports, get information as to where your case is in the system, who is assigned to your case, what the charges are and when court dates are scheduled. We will even go to court with you. In addition, we can assist you in filing for the money to which you are entitled from the State of California for medical expenses and wage loss due to an attack.

If you are a victim of an assault and you decide to file a police report, it is suggested that you dial 911. The dispatcher will send the police from the police district in which the assault occurred.

When you give the police your report, make sure that you ask them for the Incident Report Number. This number is nine digits long and it can aid you in securing a copy of the report you filed. Additionally, if you have questions about your case, this number will help those persons working on your case get the information from the computer quickly.

After you file a police report, your case will more than likely be forwarded to the police General Works Detail. However, there are exceptions to this rule. The best route to take is to report the assault to CUAV and ask us to assist you in finding out where your case has been assigned. If your case has been assigned to the General Works Detail, you will receive a call from an inspector within a few days. If you don't receive a call, you should call them. You may be requested to file an additional statement at the Hall of Justice.

You may also be requested to look at mug shots so you can identify the person(s) who at-

tacked you. If you have the names of witnesses to an attack, and you have not given that information to the police, you should give it to the inspector taking your statement.

When you file a statement with General Works Detail, be sure that it is concise and the incident is exactly as you remembered it. If your statement contradicts the police report or if witnesses have conflicting statements, your case may not be forwarded to the District Attorney for prosecution.

The General Works Detail is located in the Hall of Justice, Room 411. The office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The telephone number is 553-1141. General Works is a very busy department especially on Mondays.

Even if you don't file a police report, you should call CUAV and report what has happened to you. By compiling the information, we will observe trends of violence in areas of the city and respond accordingly. Your report is always confidential and your name is never given to anyone. If you have any further questions about the criminal justice system and your case, or if you want to report an assault call us.

QUICK HITS:

Collingwood/19th Street — The victim was carrying packages and walking home. He was suddenly attacked by three assailants. They knocked him to the ground and struck him repeatedly. The assailants called him a "faggot." One of the assailants said, "Don't do that again, faggot." The victim had no idea of what this statement meant. Victim sustained a bruised and bloody nose and a black eye. The assailants fled after the attack and the police were called. The assailants were not apprehended.

24 Divisadero — The victim and several other passengers boarded the 24 Divisadero at Castro and Market Streets. The bus was about 2/3 full. There was tension in the back of the bus as several male assailants were verbally harassing people

around them. The victim ignored the harassment and sat near the group of assailants. One of the assailants dropped his watch under the victim's seat. The victim picked up the watch and handed it to the assailant. The assailant took the watch and said "ooh-don't touch me." Another assailant sitting near the victim told the victim to take his arm off the back of the seat. The victim ignored the demand and the assailant smashed him in the face. Immediately, the rest of the group, 7 people, jumped on the victim and continuously beat him. The driver of the 24 came to a stop. The assailants then jumped off of the bus. The driver had called for assistance and the police responded immediately. The victim was transferred to a hospital and had stitches to his forehead. The suspects were not apprehended.

Collingwood/18th Street — The victim was on Collingwood Street and was walking home. Two assailants began following him and calling him a "punk-faggot" and other derogatory remarks. The victim turned around and told the assailants to leave him alone and mind their own business. They continued to follow him and harass him. They got closer to the victim, and the victim, sensing danger, pulled out his mace canister. One of the assailants jumped in front of the victim and kicked him in the arm. The second suspect hit him from behind. The victim managed to get away and ran into Cala Foods. The assailants followed him inside of the store and continued assaulting him. Employees inside of the store intervened and began throwing store items at the assailants. The assailants, realizing that they had a host of people defending the victim, left suddenly. Two officers arrived on the scene. The victim alleges that the police did not arrest the assailants because they claimed that the victim had harassed them first. The victim is currently attempting to press charges within the criminal justice system. ■

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'La Cage' Benefit Raises \$31,000 for Charities

The first West Coast performance of La Cage aux Folles May 29 at the Golden Gate Theatre will net \$31,467. The money will be split between four primary organizations with a predetermined percentage going to the Cable Car Awards & Show.

The groups nominated for "Outstanding Contribution to Community Well-Being" at the 1984 Cable Car Awards & Show will each receive a check for \$7,080. These organizations are: the San Francisco AIDS Fund, the outreach to the elderly of Operation Concern, the Lesbian Rights Project, and the "Can We Talk?" brochure produced by the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights in cooperation with the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. The Cable Car Awards receives

\$3,147.

The presentation grossed \$121,637.50. This is based on ticket sales of \$120,420 and miscellaneous income of \$1,217.50.

The total expenses for the evening were \$90,171; \$63,016 was paid to the Golden Gate Theatre to purchase all the tickets in the theatre for the performance. The cost to produce the party at the rotunda of the City Hall and the activities in front of the theater totaled \$12,528. The advertising costs, which included newspaper advertising, production of flyers, and direct mail, totaled \$14,626.

In presenting this event, the Board of Directors of the Cable Car Awards made a determined effort to use this as an opportunity to benefit as many areas of the Lesbian and Gay commu-

nity as possible. As a result, of the total expense, there have been grants made to several organizations. The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus have each received a grant of \$1,000 for their participation in the evening's activities.

In addition, the Community United Against Violence received a \$500 grant for its assistance in monitoring the events of the evening. The Gay Games II will receive \$500, \$200 of which comes from the Cable Car Awards account, which is separate from the La Cage financial statement.

Additionally, at its board meeting last Friday evening, the Cable Car Awards & Show voted to present a \$500 check to Theatre Rhinoceros.

The 1985 Cable Car Awards & Show will be presented Saturday, February 2, 1985, at the Japan Center Theatre. Allan Carr, the producer of La Cage aux Folles has pledged \$10,000 towards the production of that event.

Food Needed for People with AIDS

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Food Bank, which distributes food on a regular basis to approximately 50 people with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions, is currently in need of more canned and packaged food to continue to serve the needs of low-income clients.

The Food Bank began in December as a means of supplementing the diets of many people with AIDS, who, unable to work, are forced to live on budgets of approximately \$15 a week or less, leaving little room for adequate nutrition. Since the demand for food is great, the supply that was donated from groups such as the Gay Softball League, GGBA, San Francisco State University, and numerous other individuals has dwindled rapidly.

The Food Bank is always in need of canned tuna fish, canned and packaged soups, juices, and canned vegetables and fruit. Donations can be made at the Foundation offices, 54 Tenth Street, San Francisco, or at: The International David Society, 2340 Market Street; Community Thrift Store, 625 Valencia Street; and The Garden, 1960 University Avenue, East Palo Alto.

NY Catholics

(Continued from page 2)
another candidate — "depending on how he handles this."

CHURCH/STATE RELATIONS

The separation of church and state is the issue in New York and elsewhere, according to Paul Hardman, a local director of the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties. He said, "The executive order is uniquely different than a legislative act but it also calls for equal enforcement. Koch should stop pretending. If he does not want to enforce his order equally he should withdraw it and place into the order an exemption for churches."

Hardman said that while fundamentalists, in which he includes Roman Catholicism and orthodox Judaism, calls out for the separation of church and state, they have politically lobbied against Gay-rights legislation. He said, "The fundamentalists have been the major enemies in the Gay civil rights struggle. We must continue to

DEATHS

RUSSELL SULLIVAN



quite a lot.

Sunday at 5 p.m., Russ Sullivan succumbed to pneumocystis pneumonia. Russ was a loved and loving member of the Warlocks Motorcycle Club. He had been an officer in recent years and was known for his meticulous records and tremendous organizational abilities.

Russ was born in Albany, California, where he enjoyed greeting the commuter trains, as a child, near the family home. At retirement, his parents moved to the Sacramento area, where Sullivan graduated from Cortland High School. Russ had a real flair for things mechanical. He enjoyed playing dj at school dances. He could repair clocks as a teenager and in later years worked on his own bike, became a licensed pilot, and a ham radio operator.

Russ was quite fond of music and theater. He appeared in amateur theater productions here in San Francisco, loved to sing, and played the cello.

Mr. Sullivan's stint in the Air Force took him to Germany, where he became an air traffic controller. Shortly after leaving the service, he met the love of his life, Rod Aldertus, here in San Francisco. Rod and Russ migrated to Rod's ancestral home, Montana, where he taught Russ to ski, a sport that Russ enjoyed

Russ was a dedicated member of the South of Market and MC community, with a love for his bike that was unsurpassed. He won awards for his ridership and took many buddies to victory in competition. His gentle manliness and generosity with his love and his talents have left an indelible impression on the lives of those who enjoyed his friendship.

Russ Sullivan is survived by three sisters: Verna Jackson, Helen Korpi, and Esther Galbraith; also by his brother, Bill Sullivan, and his mother, Mrs. Sullivan.

Memorial services will be held Friday, June 29, at 2 p.m. at The Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. ■

K. Stewart

JOE ZYGIELBAUM

Joe Zygielbaum, born November 2, 1937, in Johannesburg, South Africa, died Sunday evening, June 17, of AIDS.

He died at his home in Noe Valley as he had lived, in peace and love, with his friends and family at his side, and attended by his Shanti Project counselor and friend and his lover of 5 1/2 years. Joe was diagnosed with

AIDS in January 1983 after almost a year's illness. He fought bravely and courageously for his life during those 2 1/2 years and died by choice, with dignity and grace.

Joe immigrated to San Francisco in 1968 and here built a successful art and architectural glass business, Glass Concepts. He was a tap dancer, a member of the Barbary Coast Cloggers, and the S.F. Gay Tennis League. He was also a supporter and member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

He is survived by his father, Israel Zygielbaum of Tel Aviv, his sister Leah, his cousin Arta, and his lover and cherished companion and friend, artist Sam Allen.

His humor and love and respect for all life and his Gay brothers and Lesbian sisters lives on as an example for all of us. ■

fight them in the courts."

There is hope, Hardman insists, "as they are destroying their own organizations as clergy, nuns, and priests go back into private life and the public withdraws from religious participation. As education increases, the public is becoming aware of what is going on. The fundamentalists are defeating themselves with their attitudes on social issues as the public is becoming more, not less, rational."

Apuzzo said she was also concerned about the Catholic Church. She said there is a growing opposition to Gay rights by archbishops across the country, including San Francisco's John Quinn. She said O'Connor "has backed away from recent liberal inroads by the Church. He is a surprisingly conservative on the subject for a person who spent 25 years in the Navy. He refuses to express his knowledge or understanding about homosexuality."

Local Gay Catholic scholar Kevin Gordon believes that calling the church itself "fundamentalist" is not accurate. The activist believes that relatively recent appointees in the US church hierarchy are attempting to

create a new atmosphere — a hardline on sexual issues. He says this stems from a September, 1983, formal address by Pope John Paul II to the American bishops in which the "hardline" was spelled out on sexual issues.

Gordon is a teacher and therapist who heads the Consultation on Homosexuality, Social Justice and Roman Catholic Theology. The new group was formed after Gordon's Lesbian/Gay Task Force was disbanded by the Church in 1983 after it released a controversial statement calling for equal treatment for Gay people by the Catholic church.

There are four archbishops, Gordon claims, who are hopeful of being cardinals by using the homosexual issue. He named O'Connor, Bernard Law of Boston, James Hickey of Washington, DC and San Francisco's John Quinn. Law and O'Connor were appointed after the 1983 position by the Pope. "They are riding on two pet issues — homosexuality and abortion — and if they fair well they will be rewarded by the papacy." This, he states, is behind the position taken by O'Connor in New York. ■

G. Mendenhall

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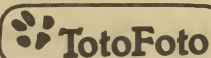
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Third World Gay Conference

(Continued from page 1)

was given birth by Gay men of color.

While that fact had been lost on most of the Gay community — and never known to society at large (thanks to a blackout by the New York media at the time) — it was not lost on more than 350 people who gathered on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley for the third biennial National Third World/People of Color Lesbian/Gay Conference.

Sponsored by more than 20 Third World Lesbian/Gay organizations across the country, the conference, according to coordinator A. Billy S. Jones, was called "to bring together Native Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, Latin Americans and Caribbeans and Afro-American Lesbians and Gays as People of Color and as Gays and Lesbians to discuss issues and perceptions which unite and sometimes separate us."

Under the theme "Claiming Our Identities," the conference included educational workshops, forums, speakers, caucuses and cultural events aimed at "effectively combatting racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of oppression," Jones said.

Among the topics explored, included workshops on race discrimination, minorities in Lesbian/Gay businesses, the portrayal of Gay people of color in the media (particularly in the Gay media), AIDS and other

health-related issues (see adjoining story) Gay and Lesbian parenting and international topics such as the Mideast and South Africa.

Keynote speakers included Pat Norman, coordinator of Lesbian/Gay Health Services for the San Francisco Public Health Department; Merle Woo, a visiting lecturer at UC Berkeley who successfully sued the university to regain her job; Dr. James Tinney, pastor of Faith Temple, a Third World Gay church in Washington, DC; and Jose Ramirez, founder of Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos de Los Angeles.

In a workshop on cultural networking between Third World Gays, recording artist Blackberri, whose career began with an appearance in 1975 on "the first openly Gay cultural program in TV history" on KQED, told panelists that since that appearance, "other Gay artists — all of them White — started going public, and their careers have taken off, with concert appearances and other events."

"My own career started off with that appearance, but I've encountered racism at many Gay entertainment spots," he continued. "An example was being booked to make an appearance in Gay nightclubs, only to see them cancelled when the owners of those nightclubs learned that I was Black."

Poet Guillermo Gonzalez, a native of Cuba, noted that a common perception among Gay



Third World Conference. Workshop participants discuss roles of Third World Gay fathers and Lesbian mothers. (Photo: Rink)

nightclub owners "is a fear that booking Black, or Latino performers will cause White nightclub patrons to stop coming, out of fear of the performer drawing 'darker' audiences."

On the other hand, Gay people of color have had to endure homophobia in the Third World community. "I've been treated like shit in the Latino community because I'm Gay," Gonzalez said. "I can deal with Gay racism, but it's hard for me to deal with being snubbed by my own people."

Gonzalez said that the documentary film "Improper Conduct," which chronicles the oppression of Gays in Cuba, "doesn't tell half the story of what's going on there."

In the media workshop, panelists drafted a series of resolutions, including:

- Increasing the number of persons of color in the Lesbian/Gay media,

- Educating editors to the sensitivities of persons of color on issues that directly affect or are of concern to them,

- Encouraging Third World students to consider journalism as a career — with an eye to adding a non-White perspective to news about Third World people and issues,

- News organizations holding public forums to fully explain how they gather and report the news — and obtain valuable feedback on how to improve news coverage (a practice already adopted by the *Oakland Tribune*).

- Recognizing the need for the non-Gay media "to stop portraying the Gay community as exclusively White male."

The only controversy to erupt at the conference was over the keynote address by Merle Woo. Woo, an avowed socialist, sharply criticized the Rev. Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign

for seeking the nomination "of a Democratic Party that doesn't really care about poor people, or minorities, or women or Gays and Lesbians," and that the Jackson campaign "look beyond the Democratic Party."

Woo's speech prompted a heated debate between members of the Freedom Socialist Party and supporters of the Jackson campaign which at one point threatened to disrupt the closing program.

Noticeably absent from the conference were members of the Association of Lesbian and Gay Asians (ALGA) and Gay American Indians (GAI). A "misunderstanding" between GAI and the conference planning committee led to GAI dropping out from the conference two weeks before it convened.

Sources within the conference committee told the *Bay Area Reporter* that ALGA refused to participate in the conference in protest of the committee limiting its planning sessions to people of color only, although the conference itself was open to White participation. ALGA has a significant White membership, mostly the lovers of its Asian members, the sources said. ■

D. B. Sanders

406 AIDS Cases In Los Angeles County

Supervisor Ed Edelman of Los Angeles has released a County Health Department report on the status of AIDS which confirmed 406 cases as of May 31.

The May report indicates an increase of 40 cases over the April figure. In addition, another 66 cases are now under investigation in the County. The number of deceased cases has risen to 196, indicating a 48.2 percent mortality rate. ■

AIDS No.1 Health Topic at 3rd World Gay Conference

Blacks 50% of Women with AIDS

by Charles Linebarger

"Nobody likes to talk about health, it's not sexy," Pat Norman said in her keynote address last Thursday at the 3rd National Third World People of Color Lesbian/Gay Conference at the Student Union Building at UC Berkeley. "But we must be healthy or our movement will not persevere."

"Within the last 3½ years a new disease has come to attack us. And 8% of the people in the Bay Area who have this disease belong to ethnic minorities, nationally the figure is 42% of all AIDS patients," she said.

The first day of the three-day conference was devoted to discussions and workshops on issues of health as they affect Gay/Lesbian people of color.

Norman, coordinator of Lesbian/Gay health services for the San Francisco Public Health Department, went on to say that despite what people may have heard or read, it is no longer true that Lesbians are immune to AIDS. This year five Lesbians in New York City have come down with the syndrome, she said. All of them, however, were IV drug users, raising questions on how health officials classify AIDS victims.

Leaving behind the issue of AIDS, Norman talked about the problems of internalized racism, homophobia and sexism. "Internalized homophobia is an acceptance of the myths about homosexuality that an abusive society feeds us. Internalized homophobia has caused us to ridicule ourselves. It has caused alcoholism to soar to 33% among Lesbians and Gay men in California." (The rate among the general populace in the state is 10%.)

Norman said that the way for Gay men and Lesbians to maintain their health is through action. She called on the con-

ference participants to embrace their "identity as people of color." She called internalized racism, homophobia and sexism diseases which eat at their victims from the inside out.

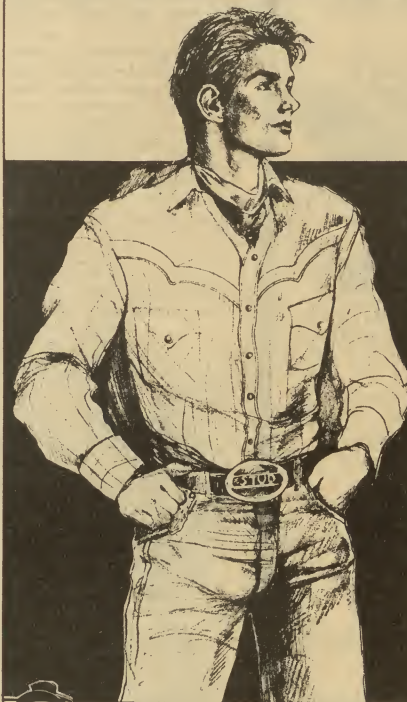
AIDS AND YOUTH

Ernest Andrews, the Youth and AIDS program coordinator for the UC San Francisco AIDS health project, spoke on youth issues as they are affected by the AIDS health crises. Andrews said that misguided ideas about the spread of AIDS can be directly related to the increase in the attacks reported on adult Gay men, usually perpetrated by youths.

An estimated 2000 minors, many of them non-White, are living on the streets of San Francisco, Andrews said, many of whom are making their living through prostitution. Working as prostitutes puts these youth in contact with multiple sexual partners and drugs, both of which put them at risk for AIDS, as most of the "johns" are in their 30's and 40's, the highest risk group. Andrews said that the youngest confirmed case of AIDS in San Francisco was a 20-year-old man. In New York a 19-year-old has been diagnosed.

"AIDS is not a White disease," Andrews said, "and for people, particularly youth, who are in a high risk group, calling the AIDS Health Project might be a good idea. (558-4801)

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Market Was Jammed as the biggest parade of the year in San Francisco wended its way toward City Hall. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

We Love A Parade

Spirit of Pride, Joy, and Fun Fill the City

by Allen White

San Francisco celebrated the joy, the agony, and the freedom of being Gay men and Lesbians last Sunday. This was the year the people chose to emphasize their love without anger or hostility. This was the year for the rainbow colors — more than 300 banners flew from every light pole on Market Street. A colorful rainbow of hundreds of balloons adorned City Hall. Three giant rainbow flags waved in the cool breeze over the thousands who had gathered. And throughout the city, our colors flew, our voices were heard.



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Butch-Femme Fusion on the back of a bike as Mr. International Leather drives along Market. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

dent in the late '70s when parade attendance peaked.

The Mayor of Berkeley, Gus Newport, rode in the parade for the fifth year. The Mayor of San Francisco didn't.

1984 was the year people chose not to get too excited about politics. They all knew the Democratic Convention is just weeks away and chose to put the heavy politics to rest. Everywhere people recognized that the heavy duty political statement is going to come on Sunday, July 15, at the National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights.

The unity and hard work of producing the event became more evident this year. Event co-chair Linda Boyd chose to talk about the thousands of people who make the event happen, rather than produce a soul-stirring statement on Gay rights. She said it was this incredible pulling together of people that demonstrated love on this day. She pointed out the simple, yet important, gesture of the local businesses who had sponsored the rental of the portable toilets. She brought the attention to the size of the stage, and sound

system. The installation took almost a full day of work by hundreds of volunteers.

Backstage people such as Tim McKenna worked to create the party element. As manager of Jeannie Tracy, he marveled at the dedication of the stage crew as they quickly moved to the Baybrick Inn to borrow a reel-to-reel tape deck needed for a performance. The Hayward Raw Raws, in their final performance, created human pyramids as they gave out their yells of Gay pride.

Lt. Connie O'Connor spoke to the audience of the need to come out of the closet. She pleaded for people to be openly Gay. She noted that she is in charge of supervising the courts at the Sheriff's Department. "The San Francisco criminal justice system isn't exactly a bastion of liberalism," she said. "Remember, this is the system that let Dan White get away with murder. Our Sheriff's Department is the same one where the Deputy Sheriff's Association sent a letter of support to Anita Bryant telling her how embarrassed that

(Continued on next page)



Visitors from the Planet Mary. Just some of the intergalactic celebrants who were with us on earth for Freedom Day. They're all Gay on Venus. (Photo: Tony Plewik)

UNITY AND MORE IN '84



... And Beautiful Muscles, Too. So many men, so little time, how can you choose? A flex contest might help. (Photo: Mick Hicks)



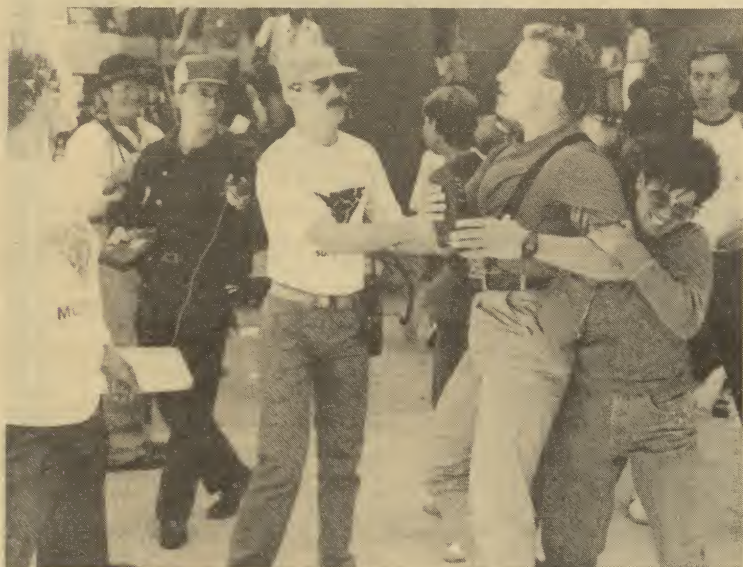
Two Photos, One View. Photographer Tony Plewik recorded part of the crowd on the lawn of United Nations Plaza, and then ...



Connie (aka Konstantin) Berlandi, Parade President. (Photo: R. Pruzan)



Untitled Portrait, 1984. A picture's worth a thousand words, and we don't have that much space. So we'll let Robert Pruzan's photo speak for itself.



Brief Tussle on Stage. A Bible-toting man forced his way on stage and took over the microphone briefly, but was escorted away by CUAV monitors. There was no violence. (Photo: Rink)



Father and Son. Nothing like a parade to pull the family together. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

1984 FREEDOM DAY



... With a Turn of the Lens, caught a second and contiguous image. Put them together, and you get a panorama of Pride Day celebrants. (Photo: Tony Plewik)



Along for the Ride. Four-year-old son Mario is in the middle of the festivities on Tracy and Michele's bike in the parade. (Photo: Rink)



A Speech, A Hug. Paul Castro, who spoke for Persons With AIDS, gets a hug from well-wisher backstage. (Photo: Rink)



A Diverse Crowd. The potpourri that is San Francisco was well-represented on Freedom Day. (Photo: Rink)



Sign of the Times. Gay men and Lesbians are turning away from alcohol and other drugs in increasing numbers — as evidenced by this contingent. It was the largest in the parade. (Photo: Tony Plewik)

And the Winners Are ...

Here are the top picks of the parade as judged annually by the Cable Car Awards judges. In marching units, the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band took honors for a musical con-

tingent. "Bi/Bi" — a play on the Ladies Di(ane, Princess of Wales) and Di(anne, Mayor of San Francisco) — took the "Most Outrageous" title. Those high-steppers from the East Bay, Sistah Boom, strutted away with honors for a marching unit. And the Los Angeles marching band won best "out of city."

In competitions among the floats, Leticia's took top honors for its south-of-the-border flavor in theme. Gay Fathers were judged the most inspirational. The Arena tied down "most creative." The Reno Rodeo rode off with best "out of city." And the folks from Hayward — as we all know — were "most outrageous."

Dyke Biker Dispute Delays Parade; There's No Rumble - Just a Roar

Most of the Riders Have Fun While Leaders Sweat; An Insurance Agent is on Hand Just in Case

by Allen White

Never have so many women fought so hard and celebrated so fervently their right to be a dyke as those who began this year's parade. Following weeks of bickering over a name, the rumble of the Lesbians became the roar of the Dykes.

At 11:05, Glenne McElhinney, a founder of the "Dykes on Bikes," gave the signal and her group made the turn onto Market Street to begin the parade. By count, 27 motorcycles were in the group with their bright rainbow-colored flags and purple club colors. They moved slowly, majestically, and proudly down the thoroughfare. This year, the Dykes on Bikes were organized. They are now a trademarked California organization.



vrooom! Bubbudubbabbubba . . . Dykes on Bikes, Part Two, in the three-block long stretch of more than 185 bikers who led off the parade. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

Minutes later, Roberta Whitelaw gave out a shit-kicking yell, revved up her bike, and under black and gold flags the Dykes On Bikes Motorcycle Club of San Francisco made their move. These were the rebels, and they were the nonsense, kick-ass Dykes. For the next 30 minutes they would pour out of Spear Street onto Market. In total, more than 175 bikes of every description would join together in this year's most unpredictable and incredible statement of the theme, "Unity & More in '84."

A feared confrontation be-

Powell Street back past Montgomery Street.

For the leaders of the two groups, it was hassle time all the way. For the remaining hundreds of women, they could have cared less. They were having a ball. Sandra on her Lambretta motor scooter was sandwiched between two heavy-duty Harley-Davidsons. Pam Pruitt and Lesley Riley chose a golf cart for a bike, decorated it with flowers, and declared themselves the "Petals on Pedals." Ann Beaver and Jo Ann Maddes rode their bike in formal black tie complementing grey tuxedos.

'The women in the parade were there to celebrate. They were not worrying about lawyers and insurance agents.'

tween the two groups did not materialize. The dispute did delay the parade for ten minutes near Montgomery Street, however, when the leaders of the first group complained to police that the "rebel" group members were following too close behind.

The parade ground to a halt as representatives of both groups talked to cops on motorcycles, who performed two-wheeled shuttle diplomacy motoring between the two contingents.

The dispute was settled — just as parade watchers started shouting, "We want the Parade!" — and things got rolling again.

The Dykes On Bikes, generic, trademarked and otherwise, reached a number of over 400 women riding on 200 bikes. The bikers stretched, at one point, three full city blocks — from

At Powell Street, a lusty woman wore a tank top reading "generic dyke." "Banjo," a small Alaskan dog, became a living hood ornament for two lovers.

These women in the parade were there to celebrate their being Gay and being free. They were not worrying about lawyers and insurance agents. In the real world, they were, in fact, being observed and monitored by these agents of commerce. John Schmidt had stationed himself at Spear and Market with insurance policies. A requirement, and a strict one at that, was that all participants had to carry insurance. It was Schmidt who gave them their legal riding papers.

The battle will surely continue as lawyers argue over the legal ramifications of the "Dykes On Bikes" trademark. ■

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BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Survey Begins

New Effort to Organize Peninsula Gays, Lesbians

Coalition of 15 Groups Plots Strategy to Create Community in South Bay

by Marv. Shaw

Organizing an indeterminate number of individual Gay men and Lesbians into a community is a complex and sensitive task, as would be confirmed by many an activist since Stonewall. The gains made by Gays since then have been heavily dependent on teamwork — a fact kept constantly in mind by Jim Mayer and Richard Gordon, two of the leading lights in the movement to organize Gays now underway on the Peninsula and in the South Bay. Recently they talked of their efforts and goals they hope will be realized.

Mayer, president of Mayer and Associates of San Mateo (Marketing and Public Affairs), and Gordon, Director of the Youth Development Department of the Sequoia YMCA in Redwood City, began by meeting with a network of friends, most of them young professionals like themselves. There soon emerged a recognition that at this time in their lives, when they were really into their careers and had set down roots in the town south of San Francisco, their greatest need was for an organized community of Gays committed to each other for support and life enrichment and ready to exercise influence.

"Peninsula Gays are ready for a mutual recognition that they share a viable Gay lifestyle," Gordon asserts. And Mayer follows with, "Support for being out is one of the most important immediate goals."

How to begin? There had to be some mechanism for discovery, and then some means for finding out major characteristics and indications of needs. A survey questionnaire soon became the instrument. Versions were repeatedly reworked until it was recognized that none would be perfect and the better course would be to go ahead with what they had.

Questions range from age, living circumstances, and occupations through health concerns, habitual social life, and needs for group participation. The survey is open-ended, with the last two items requests for suggestions. Copies have been prepared in the hundreds and are now being distributed. The intention is to attain a profile of the Lesbian and Gay communities. It is emphasized that the responses are to be anonymous.

Just prior to the production of the questionnaire, Mayer and Gordon, with other leaders such as J.C. Rogers and Bruce Hill, got together representatives of 15 formal and informal Gay groups on the Peninsula to elicit cooperation. The result was a pooling of mailing lists for a basic group of potential respondents. Individual contacts are also urged.

The survey will be conducted throughout the summer, with returns requested by September 15. Copies are available and collection points established at the Calvary Metropolitan Community Church, P.O. Box 70, Redwood City, Ca 94064; and the

Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford, P.O. Box 8265, Stanford, CA 94305.

DETERMINING NEEDS

What will the survey results tell the coalition? The first fact will be the number of Gay men and Lesbians interested enough to complete and return the questionnaire. That total will tell the leaders how many people agree that registering their facts and feelings could have a positive value for the future.

Some questions spotlight themselves as especially important. For example, Number 8 asks, "Has your sexual orientation ever caused you to experience discrimination in housing? in employment? in Lesbian and Gay establishments? because of age?" If the laudable, but failed, PACER (Palo Alto Coalition for Equal Rights) effort of a couple of years ago could have had more such data, there could very well have been better grounds presented to the public for passage of the city anti-discrimination ordinance the coalition proposed to the voters.

Analysis of the results could produce other specifics. For instance, it will be possible to see how many young male Gays are concerned about the relationship between health care and their lifestyle. It will be possible to see how many Lesbians are most interested in group activities devoted to sports or discussion groups. Such information will be available in the early fall.

Decisions for action will grow directly from the data. Whether the need be for a Gay health forum, outdoor sports, political action, spiritual counseling, or whatever, a search will be made for the leadership to start it. The information channels will be both public and private. The Peninsula-South Bay Gay Coalition will act as the umbrella organization. New permanent and ad hoc groups can exist within it and be assisted by it.

Mayer and Gordon see suburbia as a place of a different Gay constituency from that of cities like San Francisco. Scattered, often unknown to each other, not affiliated with Gay organizations, usually necessarily closeted because of sensitive high-tech or professional jobs, Lesbians and Gay men in such communities lack the cohesive, unified structure that city Gays have. When the coalition is ready to act, based on the results of the

survey, effective networking will become a more and more obvious and valuable working reality.

While such an organization as the Golden Gate Business Association is a model, commercial goals are not a specific objective of the coalition. The networking will be something of a help to professionals and nonprofessionals alike, if only because of the referrals possible, but the coalition is not a profit-making venture.

(Continued on page 21)



Pom Pons Across the Bay. As usual, Oakland's spirit and organization set the tone for the parade. (Photo: Rink)



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THIS

THURSDAY 28

- **Soiree:** sponsored by Les Francophones Gays at Lesbiennes, benefit for Gay Games II, 1351 Filbert St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$8 and \$15. Featuring Tom Waddell, who will speak on plans for the 1986 Gay Games followed by a videotape highlighting Gay Games I. Hors d'oeuvres, no-host bar.
- **John Kass:** dance, Club 181, 181 Eddy St., S.F., 9 PM, cover. Featuring Mario Mondelli, Sable Clown, Danny Williams, Desiree, and Joe Tolbe.
- **Brian Davis:** reception for the artist, who will unveil his newest painting, *Hibiscus*, Off the Wall Custom Framing and Gallery, 1669 Haight St. at Cole, S.F., 4 to 8 PM, free.
- **Black and White Men Together:** meeting, All Saints Church, 1350 Waller St. at Masonic, S.F., 7:30 PM. Lasagna bake-off for old and new members.
- **Lynda Bergren:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$5
- **Greater Tuna:** stage performance, Stanford Theatre, 221 University Ave., Palo Alto, 8 PM, \$12 to \$16. Starring Michael Jeter and Ron Lee Savin.
- **Gay Square Dancing:** sponsored by Skip Barrett's Bay City Ramblers, 2140 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM, 8:15 PM, intermediate to advanced; 8:15 to 9:30 PM, beginners, free.
- **Fetal Positions:** stage performance by Lilith, a women's theater, Zephyr Theatre, 595 Mission St. at 2nd, S.F., 8 PM, \$5. An evening of monologues in a musical format exploring women's relation to reproduction.
- **Emmett: A One Mormon Show:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6
- **Tuffy Eldridge and Christa Hillhouse:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- **Bad Drama:** stage performance, by Richard Grey, directed by Robert W. Pittman, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2940 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8 and \$9.
- **Psycho-Killer:** stage performance, written and directed by Diana Saenz, Studio Rhino, 2940 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$6.

FRIDAY 29

- **Hissy Fits:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5. Featuring Tom Ammiano, Suzy Berger, M. Brauer, Ellen Brook Davis, and Doug Holsclaw.
- **Leola Jiles:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$5. Jiles makes her San Francisco cabaret debut.
- **Something's Afoot:** stage performance, Presentation Theater, 2350 Turk St. at Masonic, S.F., 8:30 PM, \$10 and \$12. A musical spoof of Agatha Christie mysteries performed by The Lamplighters.
- **Rodgers and Hart:** musical celebration by the West Valley Light Opera Association, Saratoga Civic Theatre, 13777 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga, 8:30 PM, \$7.
- **Greater Tuna:** stage performance, \$14 to \$18 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Sunrise Over Chicago:** stage performance, 2019 Blake St., Berkeley, 8:30 PM, \$5. The Blake Street Hawkeyes present Cynthia Moore's Adults.
- **Fetal Positions:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Midnight Mona:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., midnight, \$6. The Noh Oratorio Society presents Mona Mandrake, legendary un-acclaimed chanteuse, performing the works of Bizet, Britten, Chase, Coward, Gershwin, Gore, Koper, Piaf, Satie, Shain, Wagner, Weill, and Carlos Gardal, the Lord of Tango.
- **Emmett: A One Mormon Show:** comedy (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Bad Drama:** stage performance, \$9 and \$10 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Psycho-Killer:** stage performance, \$7 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Monica Palacios and Marga Gomez:** comedy, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free. Followed by DJ Torch at 9 PM.

SATURDAY 30

- **A Little Lite Music:** music by P.B.D. Trio, Fife's, Guerneville, 4 to 6 PM, free. Lite Beer from Miller sponsors a series of concerts in recognition of the achievements of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band.
- **What Does This All Mean?:** seminar, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush St. at Gough, S.F., 10 AM to noon, free. A facilitated discussion among participants of the seminar series on AIDS-related



Charles Pierce will appear at the Fairmont

topics sponsored by Nostri, the Gay and Lesbian group of Trinity Episcopal.

- **Gay Comedy Night:** with emcee Marga Gomez and comics Suzy Berger, Tom Ammiano, and Danny Williams, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$4.
- **Swing Dancing:** to "live" music of the '40s, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 9 PM to 2 AM, \$5.
- **Greater Tuna:** stage performance, \$14 to \$18 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Rodgers and Hart:** musical celebration by the West Valley Light Opera Association (see Friday listing for details).
- **Something's Afoot:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Sunrise Over Chicago:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Fetal Positions:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Midnight Mona:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Emmett: A One Mormon Show:** comedy (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Bad Drama:** stage performance, \$9 and \$10 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Psycho-Killer:** stage performance, \$7 (see Thursday listing for details).

SUNDAY 1

- **Women's and Girls' Run in the Park:** sponsored by The Women's Building of the Bay Area, Golden Gate Park polo fields, registration 8 AM, race 9 AM, sliding scale. Categories: age 12 and under, 13 to 17, 18 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, 60 and older, wheelchair, race walkers. All participants get a t-shirt, everyone eligible.
- **Survival and Retirement:** presentation by Alan Levinson at the G 40+ meeting, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. at Geary, S.F., 2 PM.

WEEK



the Fairmont Hotel July 3-8. (Photo: Rink)

• **Viva Brazil:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4 to 8 PM.

• **Big Mama Thornton:** music, Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 8:30 PM, \$7 advance, \$8 at the door. The blues singer who inspired Janis Joplin and co-authored "Hound Dog" that Elvis Presley made famous.

• **Cathedral Hill Hotel:** reopening, Van Ness Ave. and Geary, S.F., 10 AM to 3 PM. Gourmet breakfast and lunch items along with ice sculptures and continuous entertainment. Commemorative gifts to the first 100 guests. For more information, call 776-8200.

• **Lady Bianca:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5 to 8 PM, free, With Ladies Choice.

• **Midnight Mona:** stage performance, 8 PM, \$4 (see Friday listing for details).

• **Greater Tuna:** stage performance, 2:30 and 7 PM, \$10 to \$14 (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Something's Afoot:** stage performance, 2:30 PM (see Friday listing for details).

• **All Join Hands:** Gay square dancing, dancers from every club join hands at 4170 Market St., S.F., 5 to 7:30 PM, donation.

• **Fetal Positions:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Bye-Bye Verdi:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 3:30 PM, \$5. A light-hearted look at Grand Opera with Sam Bittner and five local "stars of tomorrow."

• **Bad Drama:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

MONDAY 2

• **Gay Comedy Open Mike:** with co-emcees Tom Ammiano and Mario Mondelli, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$2. Performer sign-up at 7:30.

• **Rhythmus:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, cover. Featuring Teresa Trull.

- **Bonnie Hayes:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- **Greater Tuna:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

TUESDAY 3

- **Charles Pierce:** stage performance, Venetian Room, Fairmont Hotel, California and Mason Sts., S.F., 9:30 and 11:30 PM, cover. Call 772-5163 for reservations.
- **Kevin Killian:** author of *Desiree* and book reviewer for *WNGN*, and performance poet Peter Cherches, will read for the Intersection for the Arts Poetry and Prose Series, Intersection for the Arts, 756 Union St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3.
- **Joffrey Ballet:** dance, War Memorial Opera House, 8:30 PM, \$7 to \$28.
- **Preservation Hall Jazz Band:** music, Concord Pavilion, 8 PM, \$7.75 and \$11.75.
- **Ginger Doss:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- **Duck Variations:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4. With Beckett's *Come and Go*.
- **Dexter Devoe:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, cover.
- **Sugar Babies:** stage performance, San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 8 PM, \$20 to \$27.50. Starring Mickey Rooney and Ann Miller. Call (408) 246-1160 for more information.
- **Greater Tuna:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

WEDNESDAY 4

- **Charles Pierce:** stage performance (see Tuesday listing for details).
- **A Little Lite Music:** San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, noon (see Saturday listing for details).
- **Duck Variations:** stage performance (see Tuesday listing for details).
- **Gwen Avery:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- **Pickle Family Circus:** vaudeville/circus, Fort Mason, S.F., noon and 3 PM, free. Midway opens at 11 AM.
- **Writing Workshop:** for seniors 60 and older, 7:30 PM. Conducted by George Birimisa, sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Call 431-6254 for address and more information.
- **Sugar Babies:** stage performance, 4 PM (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Greater Tuna:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Bad Drama:** stage performance, (see Thursday listing for details).

THURSDAY 5

- **Charles Pierce:** stage performance (see Tuesday listing for details).
- **Joffrey Ballet:** dance (see Tuesday listing for details).
- **Preservation Hall Jazz Band:** music, Stanford Theatre, 221 University Ave., Palo Alto, 8 PM, \$10 to \$15.
- **Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt:** *A Love Story:* stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6. Written and performed by Pat Bond.
- **Adelle Zane:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, cover.
- **Maxine Howard:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- **Marcia Harp:** music, The Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$8.
- **Sugar Babies:** stage performance (see Tuesday listing for details).
- **Greater Tuna:** stage performance (see Thursday, June 28, listing for details).
- **Gay Italian-Americans:** meeting, Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM. A speaker on being of "Italian Background, Catholic, and Gay" will be followed by an Italian social hour. Newly-elected officers will be introduced.

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.



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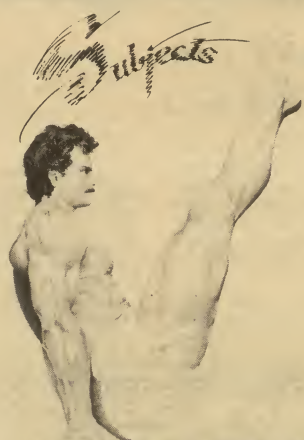
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Top Honors for a marching unit in the Freedom Day Parade went to Sistah Boom, the high-stepping percussionists from East Bay women's communities. (Photo: Rink)

STAGE

Greater Tuna Second Helping

by Steve Warren

If you missed Greater Tuna during its long San Francisco run earlier this year, or just, as I did, want a second helping, you can catch it at the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto until July 22.

This brilliant portrait of a day in the life of Texas' third small-

est town features two men as 20 different residents of Tuna, including five women and a dog. There's an obvious Gay sensibility in the writing and performing, as the actors are equally comfortable portraying either gender and the characters are funny with a ring of truth at the

same time.

Consider Pearl Burras (Ron Lee Savin), who poisons dogs with as much zeal as Petey Fisk (Michael Jeter) of the Humane Society applies to saving them. Sensitive Petey cares about other creatures as well: "Fish feel pain. They're just very subtle about expressing it." Then there's Didi Snaveley (Jeter) who pops pills while her husband R.R. (Savin) takes a nip and sees UFO's; and Vera Carp (Jeter), whose bitch fight with Pearl over Judge Buckner's body would be delicious if it ever blossomed.

Bertha Bumiller (Savin) has her hands full with a philandering husband (Savin) and three children (Jeter): Stanley, a reform school graduate; Charlene, who has failed for seven years to make cheerleader; and Little Jody, who brings home most of Petey's unwanted puppies. Charlene can always try out for the local production of My Fair Lady, which for economic reasons is using the sets and costumes from last year's South Pacific. It's going to be integrated, with Blacks and Mexicans welcome to audition — for the chorus.

So goes life in Tuna, where they're trying to ban *Roots* from the library and the Klan announces its meetings on the radio. Tuna's bigots are progressive, supporting bilingual education to the extent of teaching "the only (six Spanish phrases) any red-blooded American needs to know."

At night they have their private talks with God — "I bought a gun. You just gotta give me the strength not to buy any bullets" — happy to have survived another day.

The only element of Texas life missing from Greater Tuna is a slow pace. Ed Howard's direction keeps the multiple casting from being just a gimmick, and allows the characters their moments of dignity and humanity amid the nearly nonstop hilarity. The script by Howard and original stars Joe Sears and Jaston Williams is a marvelous piece of work. Had Shakespeare been able to introduce so many characters so well, he might have been really successful.

Jeter and Savin aren't as good as Williams and Sears — although Savin frequently comes close — but this production is not what you'd call "sloppy seconds." The simple set allows for a multitude of trans-

(Continued on next page)

Similar to S.F. Bill

'Partners' Benefits Plan Hits Berkeley Council

Push Is On for First-in-the-Nation Plan

by John Wetzel

A proposal circulating this week in Berkeley's City Hall asks the City Council to recognize and award fringe benefits to the registered partners of unmarried Berkeley city employees. The plan would establish a voluntary "domestic partners" registration system for Gays and unmarried straights. It is similar to the 1982 Britt domestic partners bill which passed the San Francisco Board of Supervisors but was vetoed by Mayor Feinstein.

The bill's failure in San Francisco has backers of the Berkeley plan worried about its chances. And despite City Council and mayoral support, they hope for a quick vote, possibly during the Democratic National Convention across the Bay.

Passage of the plan would make Berkeley the first city in the United States to enact such recognition of nonmarried couples. The Minneapolis, Minnesota, City Council has been looking at a domestic partners plan for over a year. Berkeley's Human Relations and Welfare Commission (HRWC) has been hammering out its proposal for the past eight months, since a vocal public hearing last October, when members of the Berkeley community and San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt testified in support. HRWC ap-

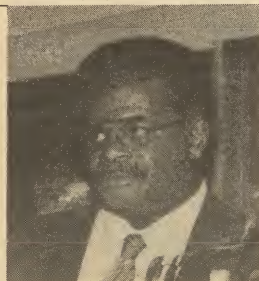
proposals were. But we've gone so far as to look at it from an insurance standpoint and we've been going through the various channels.

The plan would provide health and dental benefits, pension and survivor benefits, bereavement leave, sick leave, and credit union membership for domestic partners of city employees, in addition to setting up an open registration or "affidavit" system.

The proposal itself alleges that health care providers have been unwilling to discuss Berkeley's plan following Feinstein's veto in San Francisco. "Essentially, it boils down to the fact that Kaiser was willing to implement the plan in San Francisco before the veto but is not willing to even discuss it with Berkeley after the veto," the

"I believe there may very well be a majority of votes."

—Mayor
Gus Newport



proved the proposal 5-1 earlier this month.

No solid opposition has yet formed in Berkeley. Opposition to San Francisco's domestic partners bill formed only after the Board of Supervisors approved it. In that case, most opposition came from the Catholic Church and from Black fundamentalist denominations. The charge there was that the bill was destructive of the institution of heterosexual marriage.

Insiders in San Francisco said that the mayor objected to the inclusion of heterosexual domestic partners in the plan. Insurance carriers objected to their exclusion. Berkeley's HRWC has recommended that heterosexuals be included in a definition of domestic partnership. The proposal had bipartisan support in the commission and apparently in the City Council also.

San Francisco's bill author and Berkeley resident, attorney Matt Coles, says sponsors of this idea have been purposely taking their time in hashing out the details because, he said, some criticized San Francisco backers of not "giving thorough and complete consideration" to the issue.

Berkeley Mayor Eugene "Gus" Newport said, "You don't take legislation forward to get it killed and then not be able to get it passed at another time. It's been discussed and I believe there may very well be a majority of votes. We certainly looked at what San Francisco went forth with first and then we cleaned up some of the problems

report states.

Such problems will probably have to be ironed out before any council action is taken. But the intention of the plan actually is to lay the groundwork for the private sector to build on if companies decide to allocate benefits to domestic partners in the future.

The plan differs from the proposed San Francisco legislation in several ways. First, Berkeley recipients of spousal benefits get them free of charge as opposed to the situation in San Francisco where benefits are paid for. The proposal states that the "free of charge" benefits creates a pool of "well" recipients who can essentially "pay" for a comparatively smaller ratio of "ill" insurance recipients.

Also, the plan differs slightly in its definition of domestic partnership. No six-month cohabitation will be required (as it would have been in S.F.) if recommendations are adopted. But a required waiting period between one domestic partnership and the next would have to equal the amount of time required for a legal divorce in the state of California.

At least a portion of the city's medical plan is self-insured. Still, Mayor Newport has expressed concern that actuarial stipulations could impede progress in adoption of the recommendations. Proponent Tom Brougham said he didn't think the actuarial considerations were of consequence. "We don't think Gays and Lesbians are more of a risk to the health insurance."

'Gay Liberation' Sculpture Reinstalled at Stanford

George Segal's outdoor sculpture *Gay Liberation*, damaged by a hammer-wielding vandal March 6, was reinstalled at Stanford Friday, June 8. The four life-size bronze figures, grouped on and near a park bench, were put back on a grassy knoll at the northern end of Lomita Mall, west of the Mathematics Department and east of Varian Laboratories.

The decision was made by President Donald Kennedy on

the unanimous recommendation of the University Panel on Outdoor Art. The restoration was done with the approval of the sculptor and the owner, the Mildred Andrews Fund of New Orleans. Cost was not disclosed by the university. Police interviewed several individuals but made no arrests following the March 6 incident. Continued surveillance of the sculpture is planned, according to Stanford Director of Public Safety Marvin Herrington. ■

BAR AND RESTAURANT

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Gay Day on Parade

NEZ PAS

NASCENCY-FERIAL BAL (A Not-Far-Behind Nose!)

This weekend — Saturday, June 30 and Sunday, July 1 — is the time chosen by Ed Paulson to celebrate his 52nd (!) birthday. The birthday bash will take place at Big Mama's in Hayward.

Saturday's fare, beginning at 8 p.m. features a complementary Baron of Beef Buffet and music by the John Gallagher Band. Sunday's sagaciate starts at 3 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres (Check the spelling, David!), cocktail party, and entertainer Jamie DeRoy. At 8 p.m. a complementary turkey buffet will be offered with music by a group called the Senators. I understand Daddy David and Daddums Danny are responsible for most of the cooking. Tita and Hagatha are culpable for the Baron of Beef.

Ed is really eager to see all his old and new friends, of course, but the ONE person he truly would LOVE to help him celebrate is his dear compadre of 35 years, Mama Jose (Jose Sarria). They were together way back in the Black Cat days! Ed is hoping Mama Jose will bring along several of his twinkies — just in case he doesn't have a truck for that weekend! Got the message, Jose?

INCREDULOUS PHENOMENON! (A What the Hell's Going On Nose!)

Sources told me that a new group — three to be exact (one has since resigned upon learning of all the controversy) — has emerged in Hayward, feigning to be benevolent ambassadors to the cause of patients with AIDS. As the story goes, "they" wanted — to the point of demanding — all of the monies raised from a continuing auction series to be channeled through "their" organization — for a 35% surcharge yet! — in order for "them" to obtain a tax exempt status. Somehow, I'm told, "they" infiltrated a long-established fundraising group in Hayward and misinterpreted the altering of a bylaw in "their" favor. The changed bylaw simply meant that any funds raised would be used half for a float and half for charity.

The current attitude midst the "Gay powers" in Hayward is "FUCK OFF!" I tend to echo that statement, especially since

reading two Gestapo-like letters, one, a five-page epistle).

This Biotic Cyn-Decorum came all the way from Irenic Omphalos in Berkeley, and is now forcing its venom on Haywardites! Where's the next stop?

ROUP ODYSSEY (A Traveling Nose?)

Not content with their series of auctions in the East Bay, Little Mother (complete with new coiffure by Charles) and Ed Paulson are taking their talents across the bridge to San Francisco. The first venture will be Wednesday, June 28 at Queen Mary's Pub, starting at 7 p.m. A complementary buffet will be provided.

All monies raised will go through Travern Guild, with 25% returning to East Bay AIDS patients.

FLEMED GENETRIX (An 86'd Nose?)

Mercy and egads! Just what DID happen to make Little Mother, think she was excommunicated from Big Mama's? And why was "someone" slapped to the ground by said Little Mother? And why is Daniella soooo Upset? Not only the Shadow knows, dear reader!

MESMER'S ABEND! (A Soporific Nose?)

I guess anyone who considers Helen Ready to be God has the right to imitate Boy George and hate babies! Steve (Spoiled Brat) was hypnotized and made all the right moves to emulate Boy George, right before he was stretched between two chairs with the mesmerizer standing on his stomach!

TAUTENED REPAST! (a Dry Nose!)

Howsome Francine (of 222 and Jeja Vu fame — ex-spouse of Fat Freddie?) — set up the entire bar except for moi? Just because I'm not from Hayward doesn't mean I wasn't thirsty!

Blazon Promenade (A Caravan Nose?)

Naturally last Sunday, almost all interests were focused on the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade; and, forsooth, the East Bay was proudly represented.

Dressed in their green and gold uniforms and pom poms, the 28-members of the Oakland Marching Corps strutted and performed their routines to rousing cheers from the teeming spectators. Following behind them was Oakland's float — a huge green and gold world globe supported, in Unity, by eight mannequins, sporting the traditional rainbow design, plus stylized faces that reflected those same rainbow colors.

The Pacific Ocean area sported the parade's logo, two triangles united by an ampersand (&), also in green and gold.

Channel 7's early news showed a close-up of the Oakland Pompons and focused in right on Juan! How come he didn't say "cheese" into the camera?

Alas, as of this writing, there were no reports of any award being brought back home. All of those involved, however, are real winners and did an outstanding job. A tip of Nez's nose to each and every one of you.

The Hayward Raw RaHS performed for the last time on Market Street, and boy did they execute with poise, style and flair! Their portable music wasn't audible to everyone, so just the gyrations earned loud applause up and down the street. They stopped the parade several times to perform their stunts. The Hayward "people" float was fronted with a banner of flowers that proclaimed that Hayward found a better use for the money, rather than an all-flower float. The money would go to AIDS. Many Haywardites marched inside the tubular-framed creation — and they were the propellants of said float. Several carried past prize-winner pennants. Rainbow-colored ribbons created a tentlike cupola that tied the whole thing together.

Yes, Hayward won first place and also the award for the "most Outrageous Float." Yes, Hayward won first place and also the award for the "most

UNCUT

Last night I was talking to this hunk when his pager started beeping. "You look young to be a doctor," I pried. He said, "Oh, no, I'm a model/masseur!"



Outrageous Float." Congratulations, Southern Alameda County — you did it AGAIN!

ACIE Empress and Emperor V, Cha Cha and Don, rode proudly atop Marv and Sam's red convertible, and Cha Cha was absolutely gorgeous. She certainly outshined Sam, who was dressed in a clown outfit for some reason or other.

Other memorable presentations were: Gay Fathers with the Little Old Shoe House; Leticia's with one of the biggest dresses imaginable, plus a multi-ethnic float; Stud with a hunky Gay hay ride; S.A.P.S. with a fantastic all-balloon dragon; B

Street with a huge bee, lots of flowers and people; Castro Station/Polk Gulch displaying the macho theme; and for BEEF and bouquets, the Arena stole the show and pitter-patted many a heart!

It was fun, inspiring, and uplifting, but I am a wee confused by one thing. There probably is a local explanation for Rhonda Love marching inside the Hayward float.

I want some advice which recommends that I do what I want to do — like smile? Love, ■

Nez

Peninsula Gays

(Continued from page 19)

That is, the profit will not be monetary, but there will be great social benefit. Mayer points out that suburbanites need the kind of job security that AB-1 would provide more than do most city Gays. There, municipal laws protect, but on the Peninsula and in the South Bay, there are none. The coalition will give Gays in the area a better way to respond to the revived efforts

to pass a state law such as AB-1 in a subsequent legislature.

Both Mayer and Gordon see apathy and closetedness as the greatest problems facing the effort. The fear of being found out at work is a terrible inhibitor. To counter that fear and to overcome the apathy, Mayer and Gordon stress that no one is going to be forced out of the closet. All lists will be confidential. But once numbers are known, and concerns understood, it will be possible to exert influence on civil authorities and politicians to effect positive change. The changes in turn could very well reduce the closetedness; the process could be cumulative and progressive.

Two groups interest Mayer and Gordon particularly for

outreach. One is older Gays, very often isolated and alienated from the disco-centered social life of younger Gay men and women. The other is younger Gays, who often have a very difficult time in the homophobic atmosphere of suburban youth and have no clearly recognized role models among adult Gays.

Finally, by far the most immediate value of the coalition, Mayer and Gordon stress, is to simply be there. The existence of this federation offers promise that a responsive but nonpressuring organization stands ready to support up-front spokespeople who will lead in the improvement of Gay life among ourselves and be liaisons to the straight community. ■

M. Shaw

Greater Tuna

(Continued from previous page)

formations, and mind-boggling logistics are involved in enabling the actors to lope offstage and emerge seconds later in a different costume, persona and gender.

There's a camp aspect to the female characters, but this is not Divine-style drag. Jeter tends to swish too much — especially in the lone Gay role of a reporter from Houston — and lend his wobbly legs to too many Tunans, but both guys are serious about their comic portrayals of women — "as serious as a stroke," as they say in Tuna.

One sad reality about the nicely refurbished Stanford is that it's too big for the shows they can afford to bring in, so you're advised to reserve early and sit close. But even a bad seat for Greater Tuna is better than not seeing the show at all. It is. It is. ■

S. Warren

Greater Tuna
Stanford Theatre, Palo Alto
Through July 1; (415) 323-4000

Sperm Bank No Longer Accepting Gay Donors

The Sperm Bank of Northern California has changed its policy of accepting Gay sperm donors, said Barbara Raboy, director of the feminist-run Oakland bank. As of January, the bank decided to stop accepting Gay donors, because of the rising cost of testing semen samples, and the lack of a reliable test for AIDS.

The bank has also decided to lower the upper age limit for all donors to 35, to lessen the effects of genetic defects, and to tighten the conditions under which it will release the identities of donors and recipients to each other or their offspring.

The bank has recently received numerous calls from Gay men as the result of a profile published May 10 and May 17

in the *Bay Area Reporter*, in which it was reported that many of the bank's donors were Gay men. The information was based on interviews done last year, before the bank changed its policies.

The Oakland bank has long tested semen samples for a number of diseases, including cytomegalovirus, which has been shown to have a statistical correlation with AIDS. The cost of the test is currently about \$45. "If we had a Gay donor who made regular visits to the clinic over a six-month period, the cost of testing could run as high as \$4,000," Raboy said. Until a reliable test for AIDS is developed, the bank has decided not to accept any Gay donors. ■

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B.A.R. INTERVIEW



Some of the many faces of Charles Pierce.

CHARLES PIERCE

From The Gilded Cage to the Venetian Room

by Michael Lasky

It took Charles Pierce just 30 years to "crawl and claw" his way to the top of Nob Hill and the Fairmont Hotel's Venetian Room. But when he gets there next week for his too short July 3-8 engagement, he's going to discover the same old thing he's had everywhere else he performs: sold out houses.

Pierce, America's favorite male actress, began his career in 1954 at a small club in the San Fernando Valley ("I'm your over-the-hill Valley girl.") and two years later got his San Francisco start at Ann's 1440, a defunct nitery where the Chi Chi Club is now. As his popularity grew, Pierce got repeat engagements at the Purple Onion, The Gilded Cage, and the Plush Room.

"The Gilded Cage was a bar in the Tenderloin that had a club in the back which you entered down an alleyway off Ellis Street. Probably one of the highlights of my career was when Angela Lansbury and Anne Francine, who were appearing in *Mame*, came by to see the show. We put on the record of *Mame* for a 20-minute

pantomime and Angela got up on a chair and joined in. For the sheer excitement we created, that was an unforgettable night."

He moved on to perform at Bimbo's which was, until about a decade ago, a top mainliner night club.

"People were amazed that

Charles Pierce could get booked there, just as, I guess, many are pleasantly surprised at my arrival at the swanky Venetian Room," Pierce told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a telephone interview from his Los Angeles home.

"Bimbo's put on quite a show," he recalled. "It was with a full orchestra. My entrance was through four curtains. They played 'San Francisco' as one curtain after another opened. Finally, there I was, coming down a staircase enshrouded with the smoke from what seemed like all the dry ice in the city. The audience went apeshit."

"It was a real breakthrough for me at the time, and it led to a booking at New York's Village Gate. It put exclusive bookings in Gay bars behind me, but not my Gay following."

"I have taken out some raunchy jokes that only Gays would get, but I have maintained the campy, bawdy humor I have always had. It's the strictly Gay bar humor in the 'Get you, Mary' vein that has been

dropped, with no loss," Pierce explained.

"You know, it really isn't that surprising to me that I got booked into the Venetian Room now because in the last few years drag and female impersonation has become not only accepted here, but the rage — the public wants it — demands it even."

"I have always maintained that female impersonation is, or was, the last frontier in show business. With the incredible popularity of La Cage aux Folles and Tootsie and Victor/Victoria, female impersonation is truly out of the closet and the secret alleyways."

"Look at the success of Boy George. Of course, underneath all of the makeup, we don't know what he looks like. To me, he looks like an Oriental rabbi. He's not a boy, he's not a girl — he's a boii!"

"I recently performed at Granny's Dinner Theatre near Dallas. That was a bit bizarre. The stage slowly revolves, so it's like doing a show in front of four different audiences. A dinner

theater might seem a strange place for me, anyway; but I still have my Gay following who came from as far as Houston and New Orleans to fill the house."

"Now the middle-aged fans bring along some younger friends — I call them C.P. Virgins — and even if the new generation is not familiar with stars like Tallulah Bankhead, they still laugh at the jokes, which aren't dated, and the voices and mannerisms," Pierce notes.

Known for his sardonic (read bitchy) and accurate portrayals of Bette Davis, Mae West, Katherine Hepburn, "Mommie Dearest," and a cocktail party of other stars, Pierce often turns hour sets into two hours, but that, he admits, will be a problem for him at the Venetian Room.

"When I get on stage, it's hard to get me off, but at the Venetian Room shows must be at 55 minutes, tops one hour. The hardest part is editing my-

(Continued on next page)

WITHOUT JIM

A Talk with The Joffrey Ballet's Gerald Arpino

by Keith White

During the late May heat wave I had the opportunity to talk with Gerald Arpino, who may well be America's favorite choreographer. As resident choreographer and Associate Director of The Joffrey Ballet, he has for many years provided the greater portion of the repertory of the trendiest ballet company in the world. He is a choreographer of his time, rather than ahead of his time, and his great audience popularity has stood firm against a sometimes hostile press. His works tend toward visual excess and ultra high energy in a manner that many viewers find quintessentially "American." Arpino's ballets have been inspired by everything from the '60s peace movement to the American Bicentennial. There are no sacred cows in his world; nothing is off limits.

Arpino's conversation bristles with nervous energy; he is intense and fey, yet maintains subtle control. He spoke quickly, in tangents, and the interview left me feeling breathless from attempting my usual analytical processes at this pace. One of his rules of choreography is: "Say what you have to say without prolonging; if it's long and can appear short, then it's a successful work." Our interview met that criterion. In a little

more than an hour, we discussed Arpino's work, old and new; his powerful connections to the Bay Area; his process of adjustment following the loss of his long-time collaborator and friend, James Howell, a resident of the Castro when he died of AIDS in 1982; his feelings about Gay men in ballet and Gay themes in ballet; and, the favorite subject of every creative director in ballet — money.

Some of Arpino's most suc-

cessful ballets were created during The Joffrey's residencies in Berkeley during the early '70s, a group of works which has been called "The Berkeley Ballets." Memories of those years take on an almost mystical aura when Arpino speaks of them now.

"Why would I have responded to the Berkeley scenes? There is something here that turns me on, and I can't explain it in this lifetime. When I did *Sacred Grove* on Mount Tamalpais (a popular 1973 ballet), it just came out of my bloodstream; it was subconsciously there. I would go up to Mount Tamalpais with Jim and our friends and we would meditate up there. The response of the San Francisco people to The Joffrey and to my work, particularly, is almost — it's so natural. We did our apprenticeship here, as much as anywhere: our years at Stanford; going from Stanford to Zellerbach and then to the Opera House. I mean, we didn't arrive at the Opera House overnight. The works that I've created here have been inspired by the people and the place. We became a part of the terrain."

The ballet to receive the most sensational audience response in recent years, *Light Rain*, also

(Continued on page 29)



Gerald Arpino

COMING OF AGE

8th Int'l Lesbian/Gay Film Festival Goes Beyond Its Beginnings

by Steve Warren

The San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival came of age this year with its eighth annual event. Gone was the feeling of "Let's rent a theater and put on a festival." Gone was the policy of screening every piece of lavender-tinted celluloid that could be begged, rented or stolen for the occasion. Gone was the parade of agonizing "coming out" films by directors more precocious sexually than cinematically. Gone were the tiny audiences rattling about in cavernous auditoriums, too self-conscious to boo when a film deserved it. Gone, too, was the schedule that didn't allow for intermissions, backing the midnight feature up to 1 or 1:30 a.m.

Instead we had a professionally run week of well-chosen films which deserved to be

shown. Most also deserved to be seen — and were, by the largest, (Continued on next page)

Charles Pierce

(Continued from previous page)

self and finding material that isn't necessary. Mae West, for example, can still come out and be funny, but she doesn't have to sing a song.

"Then again, the very reason I have to keep to a set time is the 10-piece orchestra I'll have to back me up — the union rules are stricter than Mommie Dearest's."

Pierce is always the first one to joke about the freshness of his material. ("The old lines are the best — unfortunately, most of them are on my face.") With a new TV-oriented audience to appease, he's added Joan Collins.

The idea for Joan was a bartender's at Michael's Pub in New York.

"I said to him, 'How can I do Collins for more than five minutes and still be interesting?' Well, I think I found how — I keep her down to five minutes," Pierce says with a laugh.

"I have always maintained that female impersonation is, or was, the last frontier in show business."

— Charles Pierce

"As I have structured the show now, I will have Joan along with Mae and Bette and Katherine and a few drop-in visitors. I think that will offer enough costume changes and merriment without going overboard in 55 minutes."

After the gowns, wigs, and makeup come off, Pierce usually spends time with friends in each city.

"It's nice to get back to the room, usually by 2 a.m., throw on a video of an old movie (I travel with my own portable video) and then go to sleep."

"Sure, it would be nice sometimes to have a companion, but with my schedule, it hasn't worked out. I tried it with two different people — one for four years, another for two or three. I'll be on the go and they would have a job and couldn't follow me, and the long separations caused separations, period."

"In some ways it's good I don't have a relationship, but in other ways, it's not. I really can't complain, though."

Nor can we — after all, Charles Pierce and friends are back in town.

M. Lasky

Charles Pierce will headline the Venetian Room of the Fairmont Hotel July 3-8, shows at 9:30 and 11:30 p.m.; \$15 cover, no minimum; 772-5163.



Nestor Almendros (c.), director of *Improper Conduct*, with Michael Lumpkin (l.) and Peter Adair (r.) at the Film Fest opening last week. (Photo: Rink)

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Nestor's Instincts

by Steve Warren

Even if you don't know a word of Spanish, you'll recognize *homosexual* by the end of *Improper Conduct*, a counter-revolutionary look at Cuba under Fidel Castro, with a decided emphasis on the persecution of Gays there.

Besides broadening you linguistically, the film should make you stop to re-examine your political feelings toward the Cuban leadership, and perhaps the rest of Latin America.

But while it makes Gays reconsider political alternatives, *Improper Conduct* may also lead some of our foes to think twice about us. As co-director (with Orlando Jimenez Leal) Nestor Almendros says, "It forces right-wing people, because of their hatred of Castro, to examine the Gay question in

a positive way." In other words, if Castro dislikes us so much, we can't be all bad.

With *Improper Conduct*, Almendros joins the ranks of leading cinematographers making strong political debuts as feature directors. The winner of the American Oscar for *Days of Heaven* and the French Cesar for *The Last Metro*, Almendros accompanied his new film to last week's opening of the eighth annual San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, at the Castro Theater, of course.

"This is the first time we are showing it to a mainly Gay audience," he announced before the screening. Afterward, he expressed no surprise at the enthusiastic reception it received, and said he anticipates a similar re-

action from Cuban exiles when the film opens in Miami this week.

Directors, especially in the case of a "talking heads" documentary such as *Improper Conduct*, have a great deal of latitude with content. Leal and Almendros had 40 hours of footage to work with, and could have gone in many directions. It would have been possible, though absurd, to eliminate all references to the persecution of Gays; but this was never considered.

"From the very beginning the homosexual problem was part of it," Almendros assured us. Among his reasons was that, "Of all the persecutions in Cuba, this is the easiest to attack. As we went along people started talking about other things, and we had to include them. It broadened the scope of the movie."

Almendros was born in Barcelona, Spain, in 1930, but lived in Cuba off and on between 1948 and 1962. Since then he's been to Paris, but he calls himself "a Cuban at heart." Leal was born in Cuba and left the same year as Almendros.

Improper Conduct is a film Almendros has wanted to make since the '60s. The idea came to him, he explains, when "a very dear friend of mine . . . I left behind in Cuba . . . I got a letter one day from his mother saying, 'My son is in prison in Camaguey.'" This was the first the exiled filmmaker had heard of the forced labor camps known as UMAP (Military Units to Aid Production) which were established in 1965 to house people Castro considered socially undesirable. Someone in the film says these "criminals" were put in three categories: hippies, homosexuals, and a catch-all group charged with "improper conduct."

His friend's mother had written to Almendros in the desperate hope that, being on the outside, he might have some way of getting her son released from confinement. He was unable to help, but the man was finally released "in 1968 or '69. I saw him and he told me of the UMAPs. I said, 'Someday this must be told.'"

Another incentive, Almendros says, was that Cuba is always left out of discussions and

protests about human rights violations in Latin America; but telling the story had to wait until, as Almendros put it, "I could afford a year of my life." He teamed up with Leal, with whom he had directed a short film in Cuba in 1961, and they arranged financing through French television. WGBH Boston declined on behalf of PBS, saying it had two Cuban projects of its own.

While the planning took some time, including locating Cuban exiles who were willing to be interviewed, the actual shooting was accomplished in three weeks — in Miami, New York, Madrid, London, Paris, and Rome. Travel was the main budget item. Interviewees were paid nothing, Almendros says, and the directors and crew received only token payment, "for legal reasons." Archival footage, including a 1979 interview with Castro which provides ironically humorous counterpoint to other testimony, was furnished by French television free of charge.

Almendros did pre-interviews, learning what each per-

(Continued on next page)

"IMPROPER CONDUCT" IS SOMETHING VERY RARE IN FILMS—
the first legitimately provocative anti-Castro film I've seen. The movie's tone is civilized, but the testimony is as savage as it's convincing."
—Vincent Canby, The New York Times

"IMPROPER CONDUCT" COULD BE THE MOST CONTESTED POLITICAL DOCUMENTARY OF THE YEAR.
Beautifully shot, exquisitely lit...but make no mistake 'Improper Conduct' is strong stuff."
—J. Hoberman, The Village Voice

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Film Festival

(Continued from previous page)

most responsive crowds in the festival's history. Many of the features eschewed petty personal problems for larger themes (e.g. political repression) which, if not universal, were illuminating about a particular country.

The talking heads documentary is not my favorite genre; but I thought two sterling examples were the week's best films: *Improper Conduct* and *Dressed in Blue*. The former made me question my beliefs about Latin American politics, while the latter showed the line between transvestites and transsexuals to be narrower than I thought, at least among Spanish prostitutes.

Drag queens figures prominently in no less than seven features, so all our butch images haven't done away with them as a symbol of Gay manhood to those who create and reflect our semiology.

Hardcore pornography was validated by the festival as a legitimate form of Gay cinematic expression. Artie Bresson's *Pleasure Beach* was one of the better examples of the genre, while much of the audience (including yours truly) walked out on the pretentious *Man-Eaters*, which had the least attractive cast I've ever seen in a fuckflick.

Festivals help cult films find their audience, and this year's served Philippe Vallois' *The Rainbow Serpent* and Curt McDowell's *Sparkles Tavern* in that respect. Tavern had little Gay content, but was made in the John Waters' school of camp.

Also campy were the short movie spoofs made in the early '60s by the Gay Girls Riding Club, a semi-closeted group of Hollywood professionals. The shorts began crudely, but *What Really Happened to Baby Jane?* was barely distinguishable from the original — unless you believe Bette Davis and Joan Crawford are real women. This was a worthwhile presentation of the Lesbian/Gay History Project, but history won't truly be served until the real casts and credits of those films can be revealed.

Asa Branca — A Brazilian Dream had its moments, but was resoundingly booed for the way it played down its Gay elements while stressing the heterosexual (i.e. commercial) ones. The *Sprinter* had a similar theme — about playing sports and being "normal" to please your mother — but with a lighter tone, as close as West Germany may ever come to Bill Forsyth's Scottish whimsy.

There were still problems

with schedule changes announced anywhere from weeks to hours in advance. It will be a warm night in San Francisco before the festival falls again for the line, "The film is in the mail." Viktor and Viktoria just didn't show; Curt McDowell didn't finish *Stand By* on time (Would we have known the difference?) and *Amor Maldito* reportedly couldn't be subtitled because the Brazilian government withdrew its financial support over the issue of Lesbian content. The last case is something *Frameline* may be able to help with in the future — making loans to Gay film projects out of festival profits.

My favorite line of the week was from one of *Dressed in Blue's* transpersons: "A woman's body guided by a man's brain — that's a real money-making machine!"

There were no major retrospectives of minor filmmakers this year, but the appearance of Nestor Almendros with his *Improper Conduct* on opening night was a major coup which should help insure that the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is taken more seriously within the industry in the future.

Let's hope that won't take the fun out of it.

S. Warren

Gayla Celebration

by Bernard Spunberg

Thunderous applause greeted the members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus when they strode onto the stage of Nourse Auditorium to commence the Golden Gate Performing Arts Association's 6th Annual Gay Musical Celebration last Friday. Thunderous applause *always* greets the Gay Men's Chorus. And well it should. Our Chorus started the Gay community chorus movement. It has toured the nation, made a record, and — best of all — it has survived. Its accomplishment reflects on us all. But with all the Chorus' history and experience, fundamental questions remain to be answered.

Just what is the Chorus? Does it exist to make music as well as it can, or is it a friendly, campy glee club? Does it aim to cultivate audiences that would buy tickets to Mahler's Second

Symphony, or does it seek the mass appeal generated by pop medleys? There's nothing inherently wrong with any of the above. But the error of trying to be all of it was demonstrated by the Chorus' contribution to the concert.

After Irving Berlin's "All By Myself," Randall Thompson's "Last Words of David" sounded like a dirge. After "With Cat-Like Tread" from *Pirates of Penzance*, the "Gloria tibi" from Bernstein's *Mass* sounded convoluted, artificial, and frankly too difficult for the Chorus. Don Lee's solo in the Bernstein piece was musical and heartfelt, but was insufficient to mask the Chorus' inability to shift stylistic gears. Led by Director Ernest Veniegas, the Chorus' performances were marred by overly fussy caution in the hard parts at the expense

of broad outlines and larger structures. When the Chorus concentrated, its tone dried up and its intonation deteriorated. When the Chorus tried for a big sound, the product was pushed and harsh.

Simple memorization of all repertoire would send performance quality through the roof. But even after a commitment to really learning the music is made, the question remains: What music? The answer lies in the nature of the occasion at hand. When the Chorus creates its own occasion, as at its regular fall concert, serious, demanding repertoire is in order. But the June 22 concert was billed as a celebration. Why test party-makers' patience with somber seriousness? Why not perform more of what they're obviously in the mood to hear?

"A Weekend in the Country" from Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* proved that the audience was not the only one in a party mood. The Liebeslieder, an ensemble of ten drawn from the Chorus, did Sondheim's conception full justice. Singing and acting its buns off, the ensemble revealed theatrical flair that cries out for exploitation.

The Chorus' closing Cole Porter medley also pleased everyone. "In the Still of the Night" glowed with romantic warmth, "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" elicited lewd laughter, and Jimmy Corbett's solo in "Blow, Gabriel, Blow" lit up the auditorium with personality. Corbett has charm, voice, and sexy charisma by the ton.

The award for nonvocal sexy charisma goes to the Bay City Cloggers. The group is so butch I could scream. Its country-western tap dancing, performed with precision, energy, and masculine swagger, was entire-

ly professional and proved that butch Gayness can smile.

The Foghorns, a barbershop quartet comprised of Bruce Kenyon, John Brown, Ernest Veniegas, and Fred Hoffman, generated wryly sophisticated Gay humor. "Who's in the Strawberry Patch with Feinstein?" was timely and appropriate. Judging the howls of recognition, "I'm Alone Because I Love You" struck a nerve with countless martyrs of the heart.

Dick Kramer's Gay Men's Chorus sang serious pieces compatible in mood and style with each other, if not with the lighthearted items preceding and following. Kramer's ensemble lived up to its well-established standards. Phrases were sustained with warm, supported tone that encompassed a wide dynamic range.

The Chamber Singers, a small ensemble drawn from the Gay Men's Chorus, sang quietly. "We Kiss in a Shadow" was so timid, it should have been called "We Hold Hands in a

Shadow."

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus has only recently begun its relationship with its current director, Matthew O'Grady. Its artistic accomplishment to date may be modest, but its existence commands support and respect. The group's sensitive word painting in an Italian Renaissance madrigal hints at talent that only needs cultivation and refinement for it to flower.

Walter M. Mayes produced and directed the evening. He and his stagehands formed an ad hoc comedy team that found high quality entertainment value in wheeling a grand piano around the stage. The concert was underwritten by Remy Martin cognac, which has been lending considerable support to the Golden Gate Performing Arts Association. Call it crass commercialism if you like, but know this: Ticket sales alone cannot support the GGPA. And without the GGPA, hundreds of Gay performers and thousands of Gay listeners would lose their vital link.



Dick Kramer's Gay Men's Chorus (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)

son had to talk about. Leal, after being briefed, then interviewed them on camera, getting the stories fresh because they hadn't spoken to him before. Some insisted on using false names, even though they knew their faces would be shown.

The film repeatedly makes the point, both verbally and by example, that a sense of humor was the saving grace that got many Cuban Gays through their ordeal. One describes a police interrogation in which he was made to walk around the room: "From the way (I) walked, he could see . . . something dangerous in me." Another tells of the time Fidel Castro visited the camp, acting "like a grand duchess inspecting her serfs." Caracol, now a female impersonator in New York, relates tales of life in a Cuban prison: "We had parties in the jail and took our beatings."

Most of the stories are less amusing.

Both Gay and non-Gay people are taken from their homes for no reason — sometimes turned in by neighbors who covet their houses — and imprisoned for several years. Machismo appears to be the guiding force behind Cuban politics. Anyone who looks, thinks, or acts differently, or associates with those who do, is subject to arrest and torture. You might say neither Castro East (Fidel) nor Castro West (San Francisco) is hospitable to effeminate men.

The film drops hints that the Cuban dictator and his brother Raul could both be Gay, but Almendros downplays that angle in favor of mystery. "Fidel's sexuality is quite a mystery," he says. He was married once; but basic-

ly, as Guillermo Cabrera Infante says in the film, he's "married to the revolution, married to Cuba." Raul's sexuality is the subject of more rumors, but nothing is known for sure.

Almendros returned to Cuba five years ago for the first time since 1952.

"I had kept a low profile for several years," he says, explaining how he was able to obtain permission to return from the Cuban government. "They probably thought I was neutralized." He went to visit his mother, but was forced to stay in a hotel rather than with her. Havana's water shortage was as bad as ever, he reports, even though Castro had labeled it "a capitalist problem." His aged mother, Almendros says, had to get up at seven every morning to fill buckets with the water she would need for the day.

The film's emphasis on homosexuality has not escaped criticism, the co-director says, but there has been "less criticism than I thought there would be" of that aspect. He mentioned *Variety* as a conservative newspaper which accepted the homosexuality as "a metaphor for the generalized suppression of civil liberties in Cuba — a persecution that victimizes all religious, moral, and political transgressions." Cuba has not yet acknowledged the film's existence, and the Communist press in France ignored it.

Rene Ariza, whose comments close the film, was with Almendros at the San Francisco press conference. Though interviewed in Miami, he has lived in San Francisco for about six months. He is one of three award-winning writers in the film who were imprisoned, one for 22 years, by the Castro regime.

In person he adds to what he says on screen, "I was thrown out of the theatre in 1971 because I was homosexual. That's the first thing they attack in prison (in Cuba). 'You are homosexual! You are a pig!' they screamed at me. I was married at the time, and, in front of my wife they screamed it: 'You are homosexual! You are a pig!'"

Ariza concludes *Improper Conduct* with a grave warning: "What seems to me most significant isn't really what happens, but why it happens. To be different, to be strange, to behave improperly, isn't just forbidden, it's totally repressed. It can land you in jail. It's not peculiar to Castro. There are many Castros. We must restrain the Castro that's in all of us. It's a vicious circle. We're all trapped in paranoia and we feed that paranoia, persecutors and persecuted alike, because at times the persecuted seem to be the persecutors. Everyone suspects everyone else. And this paranoia leads us to . . ." He stops, thinks, but cannot finish.

Rene Ariza served five years of an eight-year sentence for writings "marked by ideological diversionism and counter-revolutionary propaganda."

Since making *Improper Conduct*, Almendros has returned to cinematography, shooting a film in Texas for Robert Benton. He's made his statement and has no plans to direct again.

"This is my first and last movie. I will be a man of one movie."

S. Warren

Improper Conduct opens June 29 at the Clay Theater.

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Minority Thrills

by Bernard Spunberg

What a thrill! The Vocal Minority, led by Bill Ganz, came running down the aisles of the Valencia Rose last Wednesday and stole my heart forever. What deliciously, delectably, blithe Gay spirits. I remember when the Vocal Minority was part of the SF Lesbian/Gay Chorus. The group was pretty good. Since leaving the Chorus, however, the seven women and seven men have honed their dancing talent, stage presence, and vocal technique. They've become so adorable, I can hardly stand it.

Back me into a corner and I'll tell you the Minority is a little like the kids who do the stage show at Marriott's Great America. Both groups sing and dance pop standards. Fortunately, there are differences. The Minority is not squeaky clean, not so inhumanly polished and slick. And, of course, the Minority's members are Gay and very out. They wear their Gayness with an unself-conscious ease that suggests Stonewall is finally beginning to bear fruit in the form of a generation of Gay people significantly less burdened by oppression and guilt than mine was.

The Vocal Minority shared the bill at the Rose with Alternative Measures, a Lesbian/feminist barbershop quartet comprised of Bonnie Gorden, Robin Kresh, Jane Gurko, and Sally Gearhart. Gearhart teaches at San Francisco State—wait a minute. Wasn't she the one who was telling us about the destructive power of the likes of *Mandate* and *Blueboy* a while

back? Well, not to worry. Gearhart and friends are now smiling and singing up a storm with nary a negative word passing their lips. Though better than merely acceptable, their musicianship is not yet polished. Their commitment to lyrics with a Lesbian sensibility, however, is vastly appealing to Lesbian audiences hungry for entertainment immediately relevant to their lives. Gay men may not find complete identification, but can learn much about the dynamics of feminism and Lesbian relationships, about which the Alternative Measures sing with love and humor.

The Vocal Minority opened its show with a jazzy overture played with refreshing professionalism by Bob Bauer, Clark Supryniewicz, and Mark Brandt. Director Bill Ganz' generous program included "S Wonderful," which featured a sweet'n'hot solo by Jamie Ramirez; "I Got Rhythm," in which Robin Kresh just about out-Mermed the late Merm; and a bitchin' Beach Boys medley. Stage Director Mark Zerga's choreographic blocking of the "California Girls" segment was particularly funny and inventive.

One or two sour notes: The chromatic complexities of "When I Fall in Love" are presently beyond the a cappella capabilities of the Vocal Minority. Also, what's with the hyper-American encore? Does a Gay ensemble not performing for the Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights really need to sing a medley of "My Country



The Vocal Minority, circa 1982.

"Tis of Thee" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"? When Gay people can move freely across U.S. borders, when we can serve in the military if we so choose, and when our murderers serve their full prison terms,

then we can sing those nationalistic tunes. But until then, I say blech, dreech, and ptui.

My personal Gay freedom celebration began the moment the Vocal Minority appeared

onstage. I think the group's grand. ■

The Vocal Minority
July 7, The Rathskeller; 775-3188
July 29, Valencia Rose; 863-3863

TALES OF TESSI TURA

Toward a Brighter Tomorrow

GEORGE HEYMONT

Years ago, a friend asked me why I spent so much time planning my life around operatic performances. "How is there time left for anything else spontaneous to happen?" he demanded. What he did not understand is that I'm basically one of those people who receives an extra measure of joy from the sweet pain which accompanies prolonged anticipation. Along the way, however, certain goals I've set for myself routinely get accomplished. The process brings me a great sense of achievement, satisfaction, and well-being which goes far beyond merely getting my rocks off at curtain calls.

Many operatic contracts are negotiated far in advance and, today, some of us are focusing our energies on the future with much greater care than ever before. For many, planning for tomorrow has brought different rewards coupled with a new and exciting relevance to our daily lives. Recent changes in how we approach our lifestyles are due, in part, to the realities of disease, financial stress, emotional tensions, and the potent recognition of our own mortality. Important changes lie over the rainbow for us all. Some of those changes bode well for our personal and professional lives.

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE

And by now it's no secret that supertitles are here to stay. First pioneered with the Canadian Opera Company's production of *Elektra* in March 1983, the concept has since made exciting inroads with audiences across the United States. Even the Met is toying with the idea of using supertitles. And, at \$70 a crack for choice seats, it damned well should!

San Francisco Opera's recent use of supertitles for *Don Pasquale* and *Siegfried* helped underline the beauty of the device as a communications and marketing tool. All one has to do is monitor the audience's reaction during any performance to see supertitles are having a profound effect on operagoers. People who would otherwise be sound asleep are laughing at the jokes in a Wagnerian libretto, comprehending the subtle interweave between text and music for the first time, and, in general, experiencing a much deeper appreciation for opera as an art form.

I personally find supertitles work better with the German repertoire than the Italian (where there is less change of tempo due to ensembles, repeats, etc.). For the performing artists, however, the use of supertitles has brought an exciting change in audience response. This sudden new level of comprehension has dramatically altered the dynamics of the performing experience by building a stronger bridge over the footlights. It's about time.

Supertitles have also brought encouraging news in the area of corporate support for the arts. The New York City Opera's recent full-page ads in *The New York Times* proclaiming the use of supertitles during its 1984 season has been underwritten by a major corporation which approached Beverly Sills asking for the privilege to help sponsor such a campaign. As you can guess, such requests don't come too often in professional fundraising circles.

"Boy, did I grab that one!" laughs Sills. "I've been a communicator all of my life, and, in the past, the problem of singing opera in English hung over me like a cloud. To bring 3,000 people into an opera house without their being able to understand one word of what was happening onstage was always a source of tremendous frustration to me. Starting this year, when all of our foreign-language productions at City Opera are performed with supertitles, I think we will have broken down that barrier forever."

The feedback from other impresarios around the nation has been unanimous. Dwight Bowes, who plans to rent supertitles for the Fort Worth Opera's *Aida* from either San Francisco or the Houston Grand Opera, thinks the cost is more than justified by the growth in potential outreach to new audiences.

"It's about a \$4,000 addition to our budget," Bowes said. "But what supertitles can do in terms of getting people into the theater and then bringing them back on a regular basis is extraordinary."

"Don't forget, cracking the public's perception that opera is difficult to enjoy is our biggest obstacle," Bowes continued. "Today's masses are not trained to go to performances. The challenge for us is to get new audiences into our theaters by hook or by crook, and make sure that what they see and hear is understandable and accessible enough to bring them back a second time. Our potential new operagoer has generally been trained to watch electronic performances in the film and television media. Getting him away from the electronic home entertainment system, and finding the marketing gimmick which will convince him that spending his dollar on an opera ticket is as valuable and entertaining as spending it on another Atari game, poses a substantial challenge to us."

There is little doubt in my mind that supertitles will enable the opera profession to meet that challenge in a relatively short time.

FUTURE SHOCK

On the home front, some predictions about the San Francisco Opera's 1985 fall season are in order. Opening night will be a repeat of Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* with Plácido Domingo, Margaret Price, and Silvano Carroli heading the cast. Whether or not Kurt Herbert Adler will conduct remains to be seen. New productions include Verdi's *Falstaff* with Ingvar Wixell in the title role and Marilyn Horne as Dame Quickly; Handel's *Rinaldo* with Marilyn Horne and Valerie Masterson (in a production borrowed from the National Arts Center in Ottawa, Canada) and Boito's *Mefistofele* with Luciano Pavarotti roasting in hell.

Also slated for 1985 are Mirëlla Freni as Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur*; Janáček's *Jenufa* (with Leonie Rysanek as the Kostelnicka); plus revivals of Puccini's *Turandot* with Eva Marton and Ermanno Mauro slugging out the high C's and Reimann's *Lear* with Thomas Stewart and Helga Dernesch in rehearsal clothes. Still iffy are the revival of Massenet's *Werther* for Alfredo Kraus and Renata Scott, and an appearance by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa as either the Marschallin in Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier* or the Countess in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Or both.

However, a little bird has been hinting that Jessye Norman might be our Marschallin. Nothing is definite yet, so keep your ears to the ground. ■

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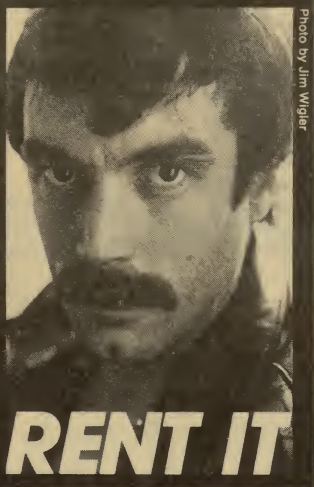
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Joffrey Ballet's Gerald Arpino

(Continued from page 24)

had its origins in the Bay Area.

"With *Light Rain*, Jim and I found Douglas Adams and Ross Gautier, two San Francisco composer-musicians, and it was Jim's idea to score this for a ballet," Arpino explained. "I loved the music, but he was the follow-through; he was the one who counseled these two young composers and brought this all about."

Following a number of years as a dancer in The Joffrey, James Howell moved to San Francisco and received a degree from San Francisco State. He studied the Alexander Technique of body alignment and began teaching privately in San Francisco. Howell also remained on the staff of The Joffrey.

"We were going to have a choreographic school," Arpino said, referring to the building on Sanchez near 14th where Howell taught, "so we bought this place. He was always my musical assistant and advisor and was still on salary up to the day he died. He and I together did some of the most important ballets. It was through Jim's guidance. He saw a situation clearly, had an incredible sense of humor, an incredible musicality. And a great patience. Not Italian like I am — you know, we get emotional . . ." Emotion clouds his voice as he says, finally, "It was a great loss to me . . ."

Of the three initial works Arpino has created without the direct assistance of Jim Howell, two will have their Bay Area premieres during The Joffrey's Opera House season in early July. Arpino related that they were completed with some difficulty. *Italian Suite*, the earlier of the premieres, apparently received some musical input from Howell.

"The early days of it, yes," Arpino recalled. "I had a backlog of music that we had planned together. I had in mind to do a ballet using opera music, and over a period of two years we made a composite of all the pieces that, put together, would make a suite of dances." *Italian Suite*, set to selections from the operas of Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari, is said to mirror its music with a "lush, romantic sensibility." If I know Ar-

pino, we can count on it.

Jambouree, the newest ballet in The Joffrey's repertoire, was created in response to a \$100,000 grant from the City of San Antonio, Texas, to do a ballet to "reflect all the qualities indigenous to the Southwest." Here the discussion took on a new urgency as we began talking about ballet finance, an area in which The Joffrey Ballet, with its high-powered new Los Angeles Board of Directors, is becoming increasingly expert.

The Joffrey was the first major ballet company to play San Antonio, and in 1976, a wealthy Laredo rancher named Lonnie Gates attended the ballet for the first time and saw Arpino's *Trinity* and his bicentennial ballet to the music of Stephen Foster, *Drums, Dreams and Banjos*. Arpino recalls Gates announcing, "I want to buy a ballet," at a reception following the performance. He did write a personal check for \$15,000, saying to Arpino, "Now you take this and do whatever ballet you like." That contribution helped to produce *Suite Saint-Saens*, the company's signature ballet.

Eventually, the City of San Antonio itself wanted to "buy" an Arpino ballet, but as the choreographer recalls, "Without Jim Howell, the challenge . . . was a little more difficult. I researched and researched. I went through many, many composers — and, of course, it had to all reflect the Southwest. For a long time I thought 'No, I don't think I'll be able to do this piece.'" Eventually, Arpino commissioned a score by composer Teo Macero, whereupon "all of a sudden, it started; I was sparked. It'll have country music, harmonicas, banjos, fiddles; and, of course, it must reflect Hispanic themes as well, which is a part of the spirit of the people of that region."

I asked Arpino about his method of showcasing — detractors call it exploiting — certain dancers with his choreography. As cases in point, I mentioned Patricia Miller (presently almost a "star" in the company), and Gay idol Robert Blankshine, whose flamboyant performances during the mid-Sixties produced audience reactions ranging from tears to outrage.

"I will always seek out what



Patricia Miller and James Canfield in *Round of Angels*, Gerald Arpino's ballet in memory of James Howell.

others may reject. Some people may not see the potential and think 'oh, he's too short,' or 'she only moves in a particular manner.' But I have seen in these individuals, that I've showcased, a particular artistry that may have by-passed others. Bobby Blankshine was one of the most gifted and talented dancers of all time — still is — and though it isn't always as self-destructive as his was, all my featured dancers have that same passion of youth. I recognized his deep talent, his deep love, his commitment — and showcased it. I understood him, and even to this day when we meet, there's a great nostalgia when he sees me, a great outpouring of love and understanding. He always acknowledged that, that I understood what he was about.

"Patricia Miller was slow in developing, but I could see the beauty of this individual. I see within them. That's the gift I have. I have always been able to detect or see what they themselves cannot see. When I work, I may start with an artist, a piece

of music, an experience, or a searching within myself of a particular new direction. And all these things sort themselves out in some form of libretto, and then I start. And if that libretto suits a particular person in the

company, I showcase them. But there is always a rapport. I have to have a dialogue."

Does he feel Gay men have contributed anything specific and significant to dance and to his work in particular? The answer is negative, but with qualifications.

"I don't think a personal way of life has any reflection. First arabesque is neither male nor female; it has no gender, no sex. Dance is a composite, that joining of the masculine and feminine qualities that makes a work of art that can translate to all aspects of ourselves. Art is in its purest form, and should never be colored by that aspect of Self. What is important is: what is true to that piece of art that you're dealing in? If it is a ballet about homosexuality, then it should be about that, but it should be truthful."

Arpino has choreographed sensual male duets in both *Orpheus Times Light* and *The Relativity of Icarus*, denying, in each case, that they were consciously homosexual duets. I wonder: would a romantic pas de deux for two men ever interest him?

"Why, of course. Of course. If the scenario is concerned with what is happening in a relationship — whether it's male-female or male-male — whatever is true to that relationship must be, if it can be translated into dance. It must never be negated. Whatever is needed and truthful to the piece should be stated: in dance, or in theater . . . or in life." ■

K. White

BOOK RACK

A Divided Heart

VITA, *The Life of V. Sackville-West*
by Victoria Glendinning
Alfred A. Knopf; \$17.95

by John D. Dolan

Vita Sackville-West was born in 1892. In 1913 she married Harold Nicolson. Shortly after the birth of her second son she found out from Harold that he had a venereal disease, and that he slept with men. In that same year Vita began the first of her many Lesbian relationships. She was also a prolific and popular writer, and, at Sissinghurst, the maker of a large, unique and lasting garden. She died of cancer in 1962.

Victoria Glendinning's considerable talents for writing biography are fully tested in this one. "For some readers," she writes, Vita "will be an inspiration, to others she make seem unlikable." She's correct on both counts. Vita's life is an inspiration: She refused to let her divided self and fate defeat her, and in some ways she triumphed. Born into an aristocratic family, whose lineage on her father's side went back to the time of the

first Queen Elizabeth, and deprived of her family home only because she was female, Vita refused to be defined by anyone.

Vita was never publicly out of the closet, which meant, given her time and place, that she was often manipulative and devious. Aggressive in her Lesbian relationships, including one with Virginia Woolf (whose *Orlando* is based on Vita), and basically selfish in her lifetime marriage to Harold Nicolson, she lived a life of inner and outer conflict until her later years.

Glendinning is more than sympathetic about all of this. "I would like her story to be an adventure story," she writes. It is, and it's this perspective which makes *Vita* a marvelous book — for while she never moralizes, Glendinning does make, on the basis of what we are shown, perceptive judgments. She writes with the confidence of a woman

who understands.

In organizing and describing a wide and large cast of characters into a sensible whole, Glendinning appreciates how and why Vita's affairs of the heart and of the head were divided. Furthermore, knowing as Vita did that she was not a great writer, Glendinning makes instructive relationships between what Vita wrote and how she loved and lived.

Readers who may, as I did, after reading Nigel Nicolson's *Portrait of a Marriage*, feel there was really nothing more to be said about an aristocratic snob are in for countless surprises. Full of drama, farce, and human folly, *Vita* is an intelligent and entertaining book. One may wish to wring the lady's neck now and then but the lasting impression is that Vita learned courage, learned, that is, to be true to her (difficult) self.

It has 36 pages of photographs, a reliable "Notes and Sources," a useful "Index," and a complete list of books by Vita Sackville-West. At a time when the marketplace is inundated with biographies, this one, I think, ought not be ignored. ■



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GENE MILLER

DeLuxe: City Champs

The DeLuxe Spare Tires proved its strength June 19 in the third and deciding match against Febe's, nailing down a decisive 9-3 win over last season's City and West Coast Challenge champs. The team was the top-rated team all season, walking away with the Division IV title, and after it defeated the Rainbow 9-8, 9-6 in the semi-finals, the odds were heavily in its favor.

SEASON RECORDS

DeLuxe Spare Tires

Owen Bubar	20-10 .666
Wayne Karmitz	6-12 .333
Brian Kelly	20-8 .714
Rick Moore	29-8 .783
Dave Timko	27-11 .710
E. Z.	18-4 .818

The Tires' stunning comeback in the opening match, June 5 at DeLuxe, was a shotmaking demonstration unlike anything ever seen in a league championship match, climaxed with Brian Kelly's improbable kick shot which sank two balls in the same pocket, followed immediately by another kick shot on the eight to end the match. Febe's opened with three wins, and that was all DeLuxe would allow, rolling off nine straight and leaving Febe's staring in disbelief. The second match, June 12 at Febe's, was another story. Febe's caught

DeLuxe off-stride, took an early lead, and finished with a 9-5 victory. Back at DeLuxe for the final match, the stage was set for drama, but there was none, as Febe's (Bill Kazee, Rick Mariani, Gene Miller, Ray Peterson) could do no more than come close until the sixth game when E.Z. scratched on an 8 ball against Ray Peterson. Febe's showed signs of life, eventually closing the gap to 6-3, but wins by E.Z., Timko, and Kelly brought Febe's season to an end, and gave the Haight-Ashbury landmark its first San Francisco Pool Association championship.

DeLuxe will represent San Francisco at West Coast Challenge IX, set for Mr. Dillon's in San Diego, July 13-15. Also representing the league in the singles event will be the top four at the All-Star — Carl Arguello, Peter Fleury, Gene Miller, and Colin Bradley.

TEAMS FORMING FOR NEXT SEASON

The deadline for Fall registration is July 24. New players and sponsors are urged to contact the league at 563-7665 (J-O-E P-O-O-L). A team is comprised of four to six players, and competition is on Tuesday nights.



The DeLuxe Spare Tires is San Diego bound after its victory over Febe's. The team will face top teams from Los Angeles and San Diego July 13-15. (L. to R.) E.Z., Owen Bubar, Wayne Karmitz, Dave Timko, Brian Kelly, (kneeling) Rick Moore. (Photo: G. Miller)

PARTY/AWARDS NIGHT AT CHAPS

The Hi-Lo tournament will begin at the Arena at 7:30 p.m. July 3, concluding at the party/awards presentation scheduled for Chaps beginning at noon, July 7. Members interested in entering the tournament — designed to give the lesser-skilled player a shot at winning a tournament — should be at the Arena by 7 p.m., or phone the bar and ask for Lauren Ward. ■

WILD AND WOOLLY

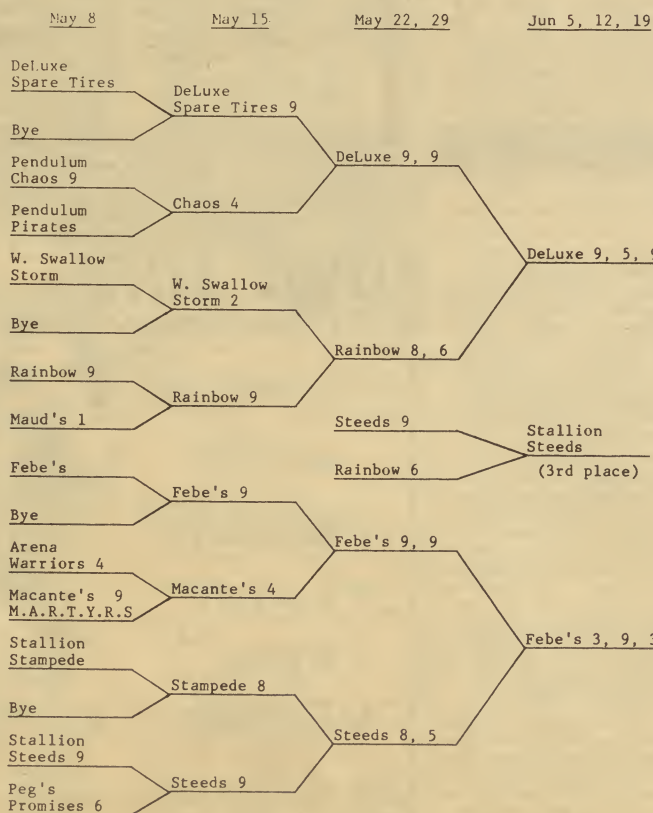
BOB WOOLHOUSE

VIEW WITH ALARM

Since at sunrise I'm not a go-getter,
There is only one thing I can say:
Early morning would be so much better
If it came later on in the day.

— Woolly

S.F.P.A. SPRING '84 PLAYOFFS



All-Star (Class "AA") Tournament

- 1: Carl Arguello - \$65
- 2: Peter Fleury - \$55
- 3: Gene Miller - \$40
- 4: Colin Bradley - \$30

1984 Eight Ball Championship

- 1: Peter Fleury - \$175
- 2: Sonny Abramo - \$125
- 3: Carl Arguello - \$100
- 4: Don Henderson - \$75

MVP Tournament

- 1: Dave Chua - \$40
 - 2: Carl Arguello - \$20
 - 3: Lauren Ward - \$10
- (14-player field only)

Class "A" Tournament

- 1: Eddie Sprotti
- 2: Lisa Duncan
- 3: Cory Iwatsu
- 4: Rick Mariani

Rawhide Downs Chaps in Jerry Walker Classic

Paced by numerous MVP efforts, the Rawhide II won the 3rd Annual Jerry Walker Memorial Classic over Chaps.

After bowing to Chaps in the second round, 11-3, the Rawhide won four straight games to capture the title by the final scores of 19-5 and 12-10.

During the regular season the Rawhide had come from behind by as many as eight runs to win a game, but Saturday's stunning win over the Kokpit will not soon be forgotten. The Kokpit scored 11 runs in the top of the first inning in what looked like a sure rout. Wrong! The plucky 7th Street crew chipped away and went on to score a smashing 21-15 win. This game gave the Rawhide the impetus it needed as it downed the Phone Booth 12-4 in the semi-finals. The rest is history.

Outstanding efforts through the weekend go to Mike Dolan, Russell Smith, Mike Gray, Rick Cunningham, and "December" from Chaps. From the Kokpit, David Boutelle was outstanding as usual, as was John Quinn, Oly, and Billy Wood from the Vagabond. Larry Noack and Bob Wilcox paced Googie's, while John Parsons, Tom Sprake, and Paul Costas helped Chaps' cause.

MVP winner December said, "The award should go to the entire team, not just me."



Left Field. John Larrisa, Moby Dick's pitcher, in his summer uniform at the Moby Dick vs. Trax game earlier this season. (Photo: Rink)

The umpiring was almost flawless, thanks to Mike Fitten,

John David, Bob Smith, and guess who? Becky and Sparkle were outstanding with their beer sales, which helped the weekend's event raise more than \$300 for the AIDS Foundation.

Also, congratulations to the folks who live in the Kimball Park area for ripping us off so well. Never have so few stolen so much in such a short time. Well, at least the cars weren't broken into!

This weekend, all games will be played at Jackson Field, 17th St. and Arkansas. Featured games include high-flying Rawhide vs. The Village, and the powerful Ambush against the Kokpit. Chaps' playoff hopes could be determined by the outcome of its game with Moby Dick, as well as the Pilsner Inn vs. Pendulum.

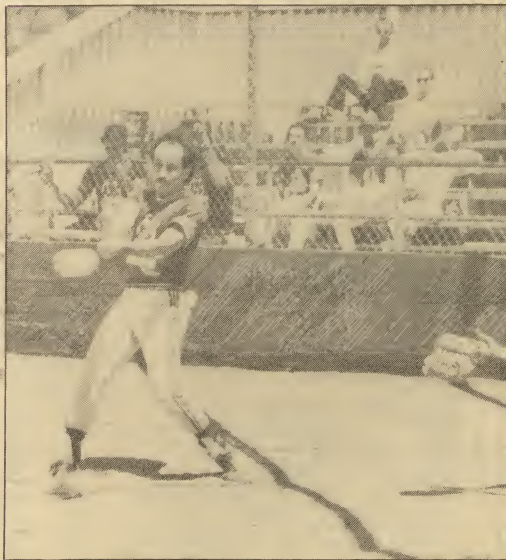
10 a.m. - Phone Booth/Trax and Kokpit/Ambush

11:45 a.m. - Vagabond/Cafe Sn. Marcos and Moby Dick/Chaps.

1:30 p.m. - DeLuxe/Rookies and Rawhide/Village

Pilsner Inn, Pendulum, and Googie's bye.

Next week we will check out the playoff picture. It's getting interesting!



More Gay Softball League action in the Moby Dick vs. Trax game earlier this season. (Photo: Rink)

New East Bay Club

An East Bay Lesbian and Gay Men's Runners Club is forming to hold weekend runs in various East Bay locations. Runs will be noncompetitive and open to all. For information and run schedule, call Kevin at (415) 843-4968.

Gay Games II Sweepstakes Drawing

Friends of Gay Games II will want to be on hand this Thursday night, June 28, at Twin Peaks Tavern for the climactic drawing in the Games' sweepstakes — the prize being a trip for two next month to the Opening Ceremonies of the L.A. Summer Games. Sheriff Michael Hennessey will be on hand to draw the winning ticket in the sweepstakes.

Prior to the grand finale, beginning at 8:30 p.m. and continuing until 11 p.m., a separate raffle and auction will offer a chance to win many other prizes, including theater tickets, luggage, dinners, and tickets to sporting events. Members of Gay Games II Board of Directors and others will take turns as the MC's for the evening's events.

At 11 p.m. Sheriff Hennessey will draw the winning sweepstakes ticket. The special \$2 tickets for this drawing will be on sale throughout the evening. The prize is two \$200 tickets to the spectacular Opening Ceremonies of the L.A. Games next month, plus roundtrip airfare and accommodations. This is the only sold-out event, and tickets are reportedly being scalped for as much as \$3,000.

All proceeds from the event will go to support Gay Games II, which will be in San Francisco in August of 1986.

A First Win in Round Six

What a crazy weekend of tennis. San Francisco's famous "summer" finally arrived — cold, overcast, with gusty winds up to 30 knots. Round Six of Team Tennis, played June 16 and 17, had two upsets, two big wins, and one first win. Community Rentals crushed the winless Pilsner Inn by a score of 49-26 and regained first place in the standings with a 19-game lead. Ivy's upset The Bear 50-35. Atlas Savings continued its winning ways by edging past a tough Nella/Schmidt 44-42. The White Swallow got its first win of the year by beating Gay Sports 40-37. Roto Rooter had a bye.

The standings of Round Six as of June 17 are:

1. Community Rentals	237	178	.571
2. Nella/Schmidt Insurance	230	190	.548
3. Atlas Savings	263	232	.531
4. Ivy's	218	195	.528
5. The Bear	216	203	.516
6. Roto Rooter	199	212	.484
7. The White Swallow	185	216	.461
8. Gay Sports	211	258	.450
9. The Pilsner Inn	204	279	.422

Round Seven is scheduled as follows: Saturday, July 7, at 9 a.m. Roto Rooter vs. Atlas Savings, and at 11:30 a.m., The White Swallow vs. The Pilsner Inn; Sunday, July 8, at 9 a.m. Nella/Schmidt Insurance vs. The Bear, and at 11:30 a.m. Community Rentals vs. Ivy's. Gay Sports has a bye.

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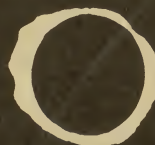
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The Old Boy Club for Best Girlfriends

by Woolly

It doesn't seem possible, but our all-male Upper Fillmore Hadussa and Non-Contract Bridge Club has been going for almost ten years.

We first met after we got out of school and came to San Francisco, at a time when we were accumulating roommates, lovers, and kitchen utensils — with the best results by far in the latter category. The club was cheaper than analysis, EST seminars, or for that matter, a couple of stretched out beers in a bar.

Why the name? Well, we were living anywhere, from Noe Valley to 29th Avenue, from Laurel Village to Glen Park, and from Corte Madera to Baja, and, according to the rental agency, Pacific Heights — It looked like Upper Marina to

me. We needed a centralized name/place designation. Also at the time, our entire philosophy of life was based on the new and dazzling Chorus Line, in which Morales announced to show business and the world in general, "Ethnic is in."

The one cardinal rule of Hadussa was that we would not talk about our love lives, either real or imagined. The purpose of the get-togethers was to relax and get away from the romantic rat race, which at the time, the rats seemed to be winning. There were to be no discussions of meaningful relationships — especially since that particular catch phrase hadn't yet become the cliché of the decade.

Ten years later, we're still going at it.

For the first few minutes we all sit around and wonder who has gotten VD since last we met. If no one volunteers any information, we keep alert when a member goes to the bathroom, stays too long for the ordinary rites of passage, and returns with a slightly disgruntled look on his face.

We touch briefly on the psychological hang-ups of friends. "Speaking of kinky," says Rod, "what do you do about a lover who is talking himself into premature male menopause?" This leads to a discussion of constipation, a drag queen called Rhoda Rooter, what the term "tight end" means in pro football, and the problem of a new trick who insists on wearing socks and sandals at the same time.

Around 9:15 p.m. George gets a call from his roommate saying the power went off an hour ago, and that he's fed up with staying home alone in the dark with all the ice cubes melting. John phones his new boyfriend, "just to see what's going on," and Phillip's lover

checks in to find out why Hadussa isn't over yet, for Christ's sake.

"Speaking of togetherness," says Danny, "after five years together, isn't it okay to go on separate vacations if you only do it once a year?" This leads to numerous opinions on the single person supplement, the disadvantages of mutual ownership of one car, monogamy as an unnatural act, making out in the john of a crowded 747, and how to get away with it when there is a lineup of passengers at the door that includes your lover — you don't.

By 10 p.m. Tom will whip out his glasses and squint through them to see who is in the room. He always says, "I don't really need these. It's only to prevent strain." Tom has been known to deal out a deck of his credit cards and announce he will play the hand alone.

"Regarding strain," Gene asks, "did you hear about the two guys who swore to give up drinking until after dinner? By

last count they were skipping breakfast and lunch entirely and had the evening meal on the table by 9:30 in the morning." From here the conversation skids through man-to-man office romances, Gays who put personal ads in the classified section of straight papers, and the irony of being rejected by a handsome bisexual because you don't appeal to either of his inclinations.

It's 11 p.m. before the host finds the cards — behind the refrigerator — along with several decayed carrot slices, a dead mouse, and the accumulated dust of the ages. That's all right with me. The truth of the matter is that most of us don't play the game in the first place — thus the name of Non-Contract Bridge Club.

I just go to get away from meaningful relationships for a little while. It does you a world of good — to get off on some other subjects occasionally — if you happen to think of any. ■

Woolly

SWEET LIPS SEZ . . .

Congrats to All

DICK WALTERS

Congratulations to the winner of the drawing Sunday at Google's for a trip to Puerto Vallarta or \$750 in cash. Guess who won and took the cash? Danny Carlson of the Vagabond!

Quote from DeDe of Ginger's: "Ginger's has a complete new decor." When I asked DeDe who did it she said, "Helen Keller." Only kidding, Bella. It looks great, and thanks for the flowers.

John Hicks of North Carolina is madly in love with a great person from San Francisco who lives on the corner of Polk and Larkin . . . guess who?

Congratulations to the Embers/Avenue in Portland on its 13th and 3rd anniversaries this Friday through Sunday . . . Hi, Jeannie and Tony!

Try Capp's Corner at Green and Powell. Make sure Patsy waits on you. He gives great service and will let you know just what is really delicious that evening . . . right, Paul Ruehl of Gilmore's?

Last Friday was the 65th birthday of Luigi (Columbia Realty). It's nice to know there are some people around older than I . . . hope you had a nice day — you seemed to be enjoying it at lunch.

That popular pianist, Bob Sandner, is now playing for your entertainment at the Club Dori out on Presidio. He's packing in the crowds, so drop in and enjoy.

The Queen Mary's Pub on

Turk Street has Joe Gowans back on the planks. He's doing a great job . . . see you soon, Joe.

Today, Thursday, there is an auction for AIDS at the Queen Mary's Pub. Little Mother of Hayward and Reba will be the auctioneers. It starts at 7 p.m. with canapes being served . . . Daddy Joe Roland always does this up great, so don't miss it.

Hope you are having a great vacation, Big Bird of Ginger's . . . did you take a dress and a picture hat back home for the wedding? Mark and I are having lots of fun!

Hope you're having a great time on your first Hawaiian vacation, Ciprian, and that you get away from Fast Eddy long enough to get lei'd . . . see you next week.

Hope that you all got to see the Arena's fabulous float with all of the hunky men.

Yes, Helen (Robbie) Trent is still on the planks Sundays at the Kokpit and still has his wonderful Tony with him . . . hi, Vi!

Jerry, formerly of the Cinch, is now holding forth at the White Swallow, so drop by and say hi to him . . . right, Jim Anderson?

Art York, when are you going to bring Johnny (Virginia) K. in to see me again? I truly do miss him.

Champagne Jack definitely needs a widemouth glass for his champagne, according to Ken. ■

High Gear Rolls

by Bob Luha

High Gear stayed atop the Wednesday Night Community Mixed League at Japantown Bowl with a 3 to 1 verdict over the boys from the Kokpit. Tops in the match was Ken McMullen, 200-521, with solid backing by the rest of his High Gear teammates. Team No. 10 stayed in close contention, rolling against a blind. A 4-0 victory was easily assured with Michael Bulawit's 210-526, and Michael Haggett's 502. Honorable mention must also go to David Greenwood, who chipped in with a timely 188 tally.

Jim Barnes again proved why he is the man to beat for individual honors as he stormed to a 210-585, tops in the league so far. But without solid backing, his team, 3 Budha's + 2, dropped a 3 to 1 decision to THING!!! With Leroy Cagnone tossing a nifty 188-518 and being backed by Bob Luha's 192, THING!!! moved into the sole position of third place.

Stud City, after dropping the first game, got it together behind R. Dwailebe's 203-576 to cool off the Pilsner Vultures, 3 to 1. The Vultures did respond with Tom Begano rolling a 204-529.

In a low scoring affair, with the exception of David Moody's fine 501, Sticky Buns handed the CB's a 3 to 1 count, knocking the CB's deeper into the league cellar.

High Game of the night went to Bob Johnston, 222-564. With those totals, Team #1 easily defeated the luckless Lucky Strikes, 4 to 0.

In the final two matches of the evening, Taco Tycoons, using its handicap wisely, whipped the Ball Buddys, while the Late Nite Rollers shut out Damaged Goods with a good team effort.

STANDINGS

1. High Gear	18	6
2. Number 10	17	7
3. THING!!!	16½	7½
4. Carolina Gamecocks	16	8
5. Pilsner Vultures	14	10
6. Damaged Goods	14	10
7. Sticky Buns	14	10
8. Kokpit	13	11
9. Late Nite Rollers	13	11
10. Number 1	12	12
11. Stud City	11	13
12. Taco Tycoons	11	13
13. 3 Budha's + 2	11	13
14. Pinheads II	10	14
15. Lucky Strikes	9	15
16. Ball Buddys	8	16
17. CB's	5½	18½

SCOREBOARD

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES

TEAM STANDINGS

(The League Averages are unavailable)

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE

(Week 3 of 16 - as of 6/17/84)

1. Vagabond	10	2
2. Joanie's Boys	10	2
3. Doll Friends	8	4
4. Frances Gumm Mem	8	4
5. M M W	7	5
6. Queen Pins	7	5
7. The Dreamers	4	8
8. Team #11	3	5
9. Late Cumers	3	5
10. Bingo Bongo	2	6
11. The Bumpy Knights	2	6
12. V & The Vamps	0	12

MONDAY AFTERNOON COMM. LEAGUE

(Week 4 of 12 - as of 6/18/84)

1. Team #4	10	6
2. Team #3	10	6
3. Vagabond	7½	8½
4. Team #2	3½	12½

MONDAY COMM. LEAGUE

(Week 3 of 16 - as of 6/18/84)

1. Team #9	11	1
2. Vagabond	10	2
3. Designer Strikes	8	4
4. Dead Puppies	7	5
5. Team #13	6½	5½
6. Play With It, Ltd.	6	6
7. Play With It, Also!!	6	6
8. Obelisk Crystal Ball	6	6
9. Castro Country Club	6	6
10. Team #12	4	8
11. Team #3	4	8
12. Totie's Misfits	4	8
13. R.P.M.	2	10
14. Team #11	2	10
15. Team #15	0	0
16. Team #16	0	0

TUESDAY COMM. LEAGUE

(Week 5 of 17 - as of 6/19/84)

1. Hot Rollers	16	4
2. Mixed Company	14	6
3. El Rio Tartarugas	13	7
4. Overnights	11½	8½
5. Oh Merde!	11	9
6. Ethel	11	9
7. Trolly Dolly's	10	10
8. Rude Prudes	9	11

9. Pinheads	9	11
10. No Wire Hangers	8	12
11. Chiquita's Bananas	8	12
12. Daddy's Boys	7	13
13. Hopeless	6½	13½
14. Ms. Fitts	5	15

WEDNESDAY COMM. LEAGUE

(Week 5 of 16 - as of 6/13/84)

1. High Gear	15	5
2. Damaged Goods	14	6
3. Thing!!!	13½	6½
4. Team #10	13	7
5. Pilsner Vultures	13	7
6. Carolina Gamecocks	13	7
7. Kokpit	12	8
8. Sticky Buns	11	9
9. 3 Budha's + 2	10	10
10. Late Nite Rollers	9	11
11. Pinheads II	9	11
12. Lucky Strikes	9	11
13. Stud City	8	12
14. Team #1	8	12
15. Taco Tycoons	8	12
16. Ball Buddys	7	12
17. CB's	4½	15½
18. Number 18	0	20

THURSDAY COMM. LEAGUE

(Week 5 of 16 - as of 6/14/84)

1. JP Stars & Strikes	16	4
2. DD Ryders	14	6
3. Pilsner	13	7
4. Twin Peaks	10	10
5. Pendulum 1	10	10
6. Rick's Gold Room	9	11
7. Spare Parts	9	11
8. Vagabond	8	13
9. Team #10	6	14
10. Team #5	6	14

FRIDAY COMM. LEAGUE

(Week 3 of 16 - as of 6/15/84)

1. P.J. & The Bears	10	2
2. Team #1	8	4
3. DA Balls	6	6
4. With Colour	5	7
5. Team #2	4	8
6. Strange Interlude	3	9

All bowling scores compiled by Jerry R. De Young.

■

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BLACK LASHES

Parade of Delight

KARL STEWART

Quite a celebration we threw for ourselves. To be exact, it was co-chairs Linda Boyd and Ken James, as well as Connie Berlandt and a mere handful of support folk, who mounted this simple party for half a million. Handful, in this case, becomes relative.

Did you catch Char and Randy Johnson at Bobby Shor's Starlight Room doing their Bert Parks and Linda Evans at the Rose Parade (TV) routine? This well-produced video was shown by Armando at Castro Station, and at the Kokpit as well as Polk Gulch, and will be seen again as Armando will expose you to his work at the drop of a hat.

Speaking of hats, there were some leather ones in the So/M contingent: the Arena featured a huge silver and floral disco float complete with WC and the Mr. Drummer winner, Sonny Cline. The Chaps butch pick-up saw International Mr. Leather Ron Moore mounted on a bike in the bed. Mr. Moore, visiting here from Denver, was the subject of frenzied reception giving, by Kym and Chuck at Chaps and Vern Stewart, among others.

The Stud and the Balloon Girls had two things in common last weekend; for one thing, both gave incredible parties. The Stud, in the usual way, and Balloon Girl in the most unusual. The Casa Loma Hotel was absolutely torn to pieces by



Sonny Cline, Mr. Drummer '84, is all tied up during the Mr. Drummer contest last weekend. (Photo: R. Pruzan)



Mr. International Leather Ron Moore at the Gay Parade last weekend. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

two or three hundred crazies at a nonstop, no-stops, marathon, 24 hour bash that included 12 or so short clips of entertainment with emcees Sister Woman, Marlana, and Naomi Del Rey. As well as lasting all night (not unusual), it gave George an excuse to repaint several rooms, after having been painted red by the gang. The other thing that the Stud and the BG shared were big red fire engines in the parade, both with a ton of balloons.

Don Ramon entries are always clever: last year a giant taco lady (John Hedu), and this year two huge ABC industrial strength tow trucks (owner Mel Yebra is a good friend to both Don Ramon's and the Gay community) with leathermen Tony Valentine and Gary Martin hanging trapeze-style from the back in "slings," tossing flowers to the crowd.

The theme Unity and More in '84 was especially appropriate to the SF Court; Grand Duke Ken and his Sable put together a cohesive cross section of all the titled folk reigning in SF today. The Brighton Trolley was never gayer than on Sunday afternoon. They just kept on partying all the way to the Castro. This was the second function that the new Mr. & Miss Gay, Bruce and Parkay attended; the first was a wild victory party, Friday, at the Men's Room. It

(Continued on next page)

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LASHES

(Continued from previous page)

was the Men's Room too where "Littergate" came to a head after the parade. To be exact, it was Phoebe's fist to Ken's head. It seems GD Kitty has trouble computing "permanent title tallys" in that Council.

Of course, no Gay Freedom Day Parade would be complete without our Gay Marching Band looking very sharp in new duds. They're off to LA this weekend for the big battle of the Gay Bands in Hollywood Bowl.

The End Up had a merry band marching in the parade, too. They marched right down to Sixth and Harrison to a jammed patio and bar, and a festive BBQ, complete with chicken and ribs; thanks from KSK to Al Jutzi, the DQL and BC/MC Michael Gill for a job well done. The End Up's DJ's are some of the best in the city, by the way. The music was hot on Sunday.

THE BEAT OF A DIFFERENT . . .

Drummer Magazine presents its Mr. Drummer Contest each year, and each year it seems to get better.

The contest, mounted at the Troc Saturday, was a genuine multi-media event. If you blinked, you missed something. The ten regional finalists were presented both in person (three times) and on screen (twice).

One of the most boring parts of any "beauty pageant" is the

interview; this was cleverly handled by contest coordinator John Rowberry with short minute to 90 second video clips where the guys spoke of their trips, their home towns and how they felt about *Drummer*.

The next time, they appeared live in a fantasy on stage. Each man had a chance to work one of the house slaves or bring one of his own. This brought a lot of generic leather slap-'em-up stage sex and a few pieces with real imagination: New England Mr. Drummer Jerry Sabourin used Chaps' Patrick, Joe Tolbe and Glen Terrio as slave-lions as he attempted to tame all three. One expected much more from Mr. Midwestern Drummer Rog (pronounced with hard G in a deepened voice). We got lotsa attitude to look at, but no action. He should have just sent a photo.

The best of these generic sex trips was Southeastern Mr. Drummer Ken Bergquist, wearing a harness by Steve "Leathersmith" Smith of the Studstore; this man not only knew what he was doing with his slave, but knew what he wanted and got it. One of the clever scenes was John Phillips, Mr. Appalachian, who appeared at a table cutting fruit into a basket, as if for salad. When completed, he exposed the bottomless basket, tore off the table cover and ate his salad from his slave's butt.

On a more esoteric note, Mr. Pac No/West Ray Wood conquered a beast which was half man and half falcon, flying off into a flight of fisting fantasy.

Until now all of these men



Anthony Bruno (lower c.) directs the Drummer Troupe during rehearsals for the Mr. Drummer contest last weekend. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

played the top role, but Sonny Cline, being a true San Franciscan, moved to the bottom position. Coming from back stage, Sonny drove two hooded men on chain leashes to the center of the room where they took their leashes and chained Mr. Cline to a spread-eagle frame. In minutes, these two masters had Sonny completely involved in an elaborate web of bondage and crowned their work by branding his left cheek with "Drummer." This was by far the best of the live performances.

The house slaves, or Anthony Bruno Dancers, as they are known in some circles, staged short orgies on stage throughout the evening, filling our minds with much more than who might win that night. Anthony has been *Drummer's* Production designer two years running now.

This year's erotic video (filmed by Mark and Marv of M&M technical productions) were for the most part uninteresting. One man, however, produced his own video. Ray Woods begins by working out in his gym at home in front of a round mirror wearing white gym shorts. The scene changes to a room shrouded in darkness; he's still pumping Nautilus in front of the round mirror, but in leather. His sanctuary is invaded by a hooded master with whom he engages in a slow motion judo match. Ray is the winner and takes advantage of the spoils in a fog on

the floor.

The music, too, was fair to boring, except for *Drummer's* co-publisher Mario Simon's version of the "Drummer Theme Song" produced by himself. Mario had been a famous recording artist in Spain before he moved into John Embry's dungeon.

It was overwhelmingly a Sonny Cline crowd, so it was no surprise when he walked away with the leather crown. First runner-up was Mr. So/East Ken Bergquist and second runner-up was Mr. So/Cal, gorgeous John Rush. These men were rewarded and awarded by Ron Moore and Mr. Drummer '83 John Garger.

The next evening they were all seen at Sutter's Mill, and Fred Badalamente's Galleria party.

If you were able to bilocate, as we were, you know the Gift Center Parties went flawlessly. Saturday Night, Miquel Brown magnified the meaning of Black Disco Diva, and showed San Francisco what the word *Pro* really means. She lifted, played with, rocked 'n sang to the audience until they felt like they had been made love to: "I'm a Saint, I'm a Sinner" worked the nerves of this crowd as she brought James out of the audience to dance and even do a bit of "breaking" for her. "So Many Men, So Little Time" simply tore the roof off. She ended with a new ballad, "Mama"

which toned things down a bit too much. Closing with "So Many Men" may have been a truer move. The next day Sylvester also shook the rafters for Dr. Sanford and The I-Beam Family.

FILE THIS, MISS . . .

Last week marked the 60th birthday of CMC's Don Rotan, and the 40th of the MC's token straight man, Mike Phillips. The occasion was celebrated with a tasty fete at Chez Mollet called "A Century of Progress." It also happened to coincide with the anniversary of Chez Mollet's star waiter Billy's four years of service to Lenny.

Among the well-wishers was a whole flock of SFGDI's: Prez Jonni Valle is helping Kleenex debut a new product . . . pop up wedding gowns. I believe Ludwig is his next victim, as witnessed by the entire camp at the SFGDI's recent run "Speak-easy." Perhaps the new Miss GDI Men's Room B'tender Wanda June, with her crown princess Anna Mae Wong, will stand in as brides maids. The GDI's also have another star: Bill Ireton's food was reportedly some of the best grub in El Dorado County; just keep him away from the Pam can.

This weekend you can congratulate Jonni and Ludwig at the MC President's 4th of July celebration at The Eagle, Wed-

(Continued on next page)



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Ron Moore, International Mr. Leather (l.), with Steve Deseer, Mr. Southwest Drummer '83, at the pre-Mr. Drummer contest party at Chaps. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)

nesday 7/4 from 3 to 6 p.m. For \$6 you'll get a Mr. Liberty contest (yes another contest), beer bust, food, and a surprise raid by the FLU (First Ladies' Union). This is a fundraiser for the Forum's Xmas party.

This weekend too, the CMC will host the hordes on their Great Western tradition's run down south. If you don't follow David Sarathain, it's about an hour away and only costs 60 bucks for all the food, booze, games, bike and buddy events, and show biz razzledazzle you can handle. Applications at Febe's.

The 18th year is something to party about: Febe's did, last Thursday, with food, stuffed animals, and lotsa drinks for all the friends of that Folsom St.

haunt. We were even granted a special visit from owner Don Giest, who is on the road with lover Doug Anderson and John Kissenger for an extended country-wide sojourn.

Stop in to Chaps and check out Michael Calahan's erotic bondage pieces, done in stained glass. Quite amazing, even elegant stuff. Perfect for the master who has everything.

Wade and Ray, of S. Products, Denver, breezed into town for the big parade. Mr. S. Denver is celebrating its first anniversary this Friday and Saturday in and about that Rocky Mountain capital.

Castro Condition: tonight the folks from Gay Games '86 will be doing a bit of fundraising at Twin Peaks. The 9 p.m. party will feature a huge drawing,

with the grand prize a trip to the LA Olympics all expenses paid.

The Obelisk is pitching in and doing its part: from now until July 22 its Castro location will donate 15% of all sales to the SF AIDS Foundation. Good Stuff.

Tonight also (6/28) from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., Ms. Rita Rocket is celebrating her birthday with a party and Rita Look Alike Contest. Rita has been doing brunches a couple of times a month for the patients of Ward 5B, and part of tonight's proceeds will benefit that cause.

Monday and Tuesday we may taste the City of Yore; Michele will do two nights in Sutter's Showcase. Each night, at 6 and 7:30 p.m., you can hear his wonderful humor for a mere 4 bucks.

Well, the summer's festive wind is blowing strong. See ya' in the skins . . .

K. Stewart

Karl's Calendar

Thursday, June 28: Rita Rocket's Birthday, Castro Station, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. featuring the Rita Rocket Look-Alike Contest, music: Beau Thomson (Galleria tea dance DJ), benefit for Ward 5B brunches.

Gay Games '86 Benefit, Twin Peaks, 9 p.m., drawing: grand prize a round trip for two to LA Olympics.

Friday, June 29: Russ Sullivan (member of Warlocks) Memorial Services, Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 2 p.m.

Sunday, July 1: Ramrod Beer Bust, 12 noon - 7 p.m., \$3. Draft, \$1 hot dogs.

Arena Beer Bust, 3 - 7 p.m., \$3. Draft

Eagle Beer Bust, 3 to 6 p.m., \$6.

Monday, July 2: Sutter's Showcase, featuring Michelle, 6 and 7:30 p.m., \$4. (also July 3, same times)

Open Court Meeting, Kimo's, 7:30 p.m., a forum for information and scheduling within the court system.

Wednesday, July 4: A Star Spangled Salute to the 4th of July, Eagle Patio, 3-6 p.m. \$6. Beer bust, food and show featuring the FLU and the Mr. Liberty Contest. Hosts: Presidents of MC/UC's

Fourth of July Beer Bust, Arena, 3 to 7 p.m., \$3. Draft.



Trixie Trash slinging hash at the GDI Run. (Photo: Kent)



The scene at The Balloon Girls' party at the Casa Loma last weekend. (Photo: Rink)

WILD AND WOOLLY

SAME TO YOU, FELLA

When seductively charming the next one
While cozily wrapped up in bed,
When whispering love's old sweet story,
May you call him by my name instead.

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That would knock you right out of your socks.
His field is Induced Stress Analysis
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— Woolly

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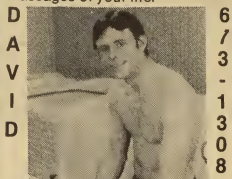
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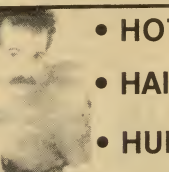
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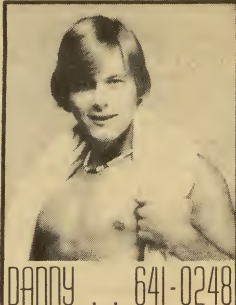


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